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# ***Daily Report***

# **Latin America**

FBIS-LAT-87-208  
Wednesday  
28 October 1987

# Daily Report

## Latin America

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28 October 1987

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**Cuba**

**Castro Visits Road Construction Site**  
*FL280246 Havana Television Service in Spanish*  
*0100 GMT 28 Oct 87*

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, a few moments ago visited the Blas Roca Calderio contingent, which is building the east-west highway in Havana. One of our news teams was there during his visit.

[Begin recording] [Castro] This productivity is almost twice as much of any... [changes thought] How many trips do trucks make?

[First speaker] An average of 50. Some make as many as 79 trips in short distances.

[Castro] It depends on the distance.

[First speaker] [Words indistinct] broke the record by making 116... [corrects himself] 117.

[Castro] How many meters of cement did that man pour by himself?

[First speaker] He poured 3 times 8, that is... [corrects himself] by 9, 117 times 9.

[Castro] One man alone has poured 1,000?

[Second speaker] Almost. Yesterday they poured, I am going to tell you, 4,846 meters.

[First speaker] See how much they poured.

[Castro] One thousand cubic meters and trucks poured some 2,000.

[Second speaker] The trucks poured 2,488.

[Speakers] [passage indistinct]

[Castro] That is an average of 800 at least.

[First speaker] Some 700 and...

[Castro, interrupting] Over 800 because are they not 6?

[Second speaker] Yes, but that was a peak day.

[First speaker] This was yesterday.

[Castro] You poured more cement yesterday. If there are 48,000; 6 times 8 is 48. That is an average of 800.

[First speaker] An average of 800.

[Second speaker] I am not saying this will be achieved because some may have a flat. It is an incredible rate to maintain in a day alone. Last night I was with them over there and it is great because at night you stand in the middle and it sounds like a music box, everyone going rrrrrrr [motor sound].

[Castro] At what time was this?

[Second speaker] At 8, 9, 10. We stop at 10. Last night some wanted to stay until 1. I said no way.

[Castro] That productivity is great, and also the speed in which the projects are being completed, because a project that is dragged on means more spending. Many resources are not used until they are completed. Also, as soon as this has the ...

[First speaker, interrupting] Embankment.

[Castro] The embankment and inverted [words indistinct] it will start to be used. I am thinking about the solution of the overpasses, not yours but the ones that have to be built around 100th Street. The project is 18 months old. They have been building a road to take the place of 100th Street. That is the kind of project that needs to be built fast. The longer a project like that one takes the longer trucks are going to be around.

[First speaker] Going around, losing time.

[Castro] You can spend 6 years doing that, 6 years wasting resources. If you complete it in 15 months, you begin taking advantage of it in 15 months and begin producing, because this highway and the overpass produce as much as a factory, or even more. [end recording]

**Komsomol Leader Arrives on Official Visit**  
*FL240227 Havana Television Cubana Network*  
*in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Oct 87*

[Text] Viktor Mironenko, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the All-Union Komsomol, today arrived in Cuba on an official working visit.

A few hours ago the high-level youth official held a news conference during which he discussed topics of great interest such as the ties of friendship that unite the Komsomol and the UJC [Union of Young Communists].

He also referred to the recently concluded Fourth Cuba-USSR Friendship Festival and, above all, the role of youths in the country's current restructuring process.

[Begin Mironenko recording, in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation] The 20th Komsomol Congress held this spring was a grand political event. It was very convincing because the youth are the most powerful force of the perestroika [restructuring]. Large tasks are being undertaken with the help of the youths, such as

scientific-technical (?programs), developing regions in Siberia and the far east, solving the problems of housing and food sales, and many others. [end recording]

The youth leader will return to his country on Sunday accompanied by the Soviet delegation that participated in the friendship festival.

**Youth Friendship Festival With USSR Closes**  
*FL231433 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish*  
1200 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] Delegates to the Fourth Cuba-USSR Youth Friendship Festival have read, during the closing event, a message sent to Mikhail Gorbachev, secretary general of the CPSU, and Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers. In the letter, the youths proclaim that they are and will continue to be worthy forgers of the heroic revolutionary traditions of the two countries and defend the construction of socialism and communism.

The festival closed last night at Pinar del Rio Province's Captain San Luis Stadium with a giant show attended by over 12,000 people. After the 5-day long festival the youths from the fatherland of Lenin and Marti strengthened even more the solidarity ties between the two countries and encouraged important exchanges to work together for a future of peace. The Soviet delegates will participate in several activities today and tomorrow in Havana.

**IAEA Director General Meets With Fernandez**  
*FL271655 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish*  
1200 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, yesterday met with Dr Hans Blix, director general of the IAEA. Comrade Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, executive secretary of Cuba's Atomic Energy Commission, was also present at the meeting. Dr Blix talked about the use of the atom for peace and the work of the organization to promote this idea among the member countries. The Cuban leader praised this international organization, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. [passage omitted]

**Azcona in 'Open Defiance' of Esquipulas**  
*PA231741 Havana International Service in Spanish*  
2300 GMT 22 Oct 87

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] Honduran President Jose Azcona is paying a visit to the United States. Contrary to what anyone might think, he is not there to defend his country's interests or those of the Central American nations. Quite the contrary: Putting aside anything remotely connected with dignity, the Honduran president wants more aid for the

Somozist mercenaries he is harboring in his national territory, not only in opposition to the indignant protests of his countrymen, but in open defiance to the agreements signed by him in August in Guatemala City. Azcona has forgotten that he signed the document, which he must respect, which openly stipulates a halt of the aid to irregular troops that have devastated the border regions in their murdering forays into Nicaragua.

But if one mentions President Jose Azcona, it is necessary to state that he has not been very successful in his domestic policies, because in his blind adherence to IMF policies he has increased the cost of living and decreed budgetary cuts in such fundamental items such as education and health. But his foreign policy has been even more erratic. In his electoral campaign he had claimed he would keep in mind national reality and respect of the country's sovereignty in its relations with the United States; but in practice everything has worked just the opposite. In his second visit to Washington, 4 months after taking office, he openly supported President Ronald Reagan's aggression policy against Nicaragua. For this reason, as recently as 1986 nearly 10,000 U.S. soldiers marched through Honduran territory in a continuation of joint military maneuvers that have been taking place since Ronald Reagan's arrival in the White House, and have continued in 1987. These war games are—as has been repeatedly stated—a way of preparing for a direct invasion of Nicaragua.

But the most clear indicator of the Honduran president's subservience is his open tolerance of the armed contras financed and trained by the United States to overthrow the Managua government, who are in Honduras by the thousands. In this regard, it must be recalled that the ruler has paid no heed to the charges and demands of the Nicaragua border zone coffee producers who have been dislodged by the bands and who have lost \$14 million since the mercenaries invaded the region.

One must not forget the obdurate opposition of the Honduran Government during all these years to the Contadora Group's peace efforts to find a negotiated solution to the regional conflict.

Much could also be said about the corruption of the Honduran Army and of its close links with the Somozist bands, as well as the permanent presence of U.S. troops in the country, which has promoted the proliferation of bars, bordellos, and even venereal diseases in children.

Even if it were true that President Jose Azcona's position achieved more and more financial assistance on the part of the United States, because he has helped the U.S. military and political objectives in Central America, he will not escape the verdict of history.

Doing exactly the opposite from what he signed in Guatemala City looks very much like a betrayal, and, in this regard, disgrace is for he who earns it.

## El Salvador

### Reaction to Murder of Human Rights Leader

#### Government Condemns Death

PA271951 San Salvador Television Nacional in Spanish  
1300 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Deputy Communications Minister Roberto Edmundo Vieira has condemned and rejected the assassination of Herbert Anaya Sanabria, president of the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission. He also said that the assassination seeks to hinder the development of the Esquipulas II plan.

Vieira released a communique in which the Salvadoran Government condemned and rejected the assassination of Herbert Anaya Sanabria, president of the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission, in the Zacamil neighborhood yesterday. The official said that Anaya Sanabria's assassination will produce pressures from other countries and that it could have been committed by any of the extremist groups in El Salvador.

[Vieira] "This will also undoubtedly produce a number of international actions to exert pressure. This can also produce a radicalization of masses inside the country. Who are the ones seeking that objective? The extremist groups in the country. Without having more information, we cannot state which of the extremists carried out this action. But, unquestionably, this is an action by an extremist group in the country. This is definitely clear."

Vieira said that neither the government nor the Armed Forces want to cause harm and that this action could have been carried out by some sectors so that the Salvadoran Government would not fulfill the Esquipulas II accords.

[Vieira] "In the current circumstances, this assassination is definitely directed against the government's political actions and seeks to destabilize the government and create an international climate against the government that would lead to pressures against it. That is the objective being sought."

Asked about an increase in the actions by the death squads, Vieira said they have decreased when compared to 1981-82.

[Vieira] "The death squads have been disbanded. However, this does not mean that those people who created and led them do not continue to have the same mentality. They are undoubtedly ready to use any opportunity to carry out actions. However, in the majority of the cases, the structure of the death squads has been dismantled and I think they have been disappearing. If we compare the terrorist actions that we have been facing, most of them have not been staged by the death squads but by the FMLN structures."

Asked whether Anaya Sanabria's assassination might be a warning against the return to the country of Ruben Zamora and other FMLN and FDR leaders, Vieira said the political opening for the return of the leftist leaders is a historic necessity for the democratic process in the nation. Vieira also issued an appeal to all the country's sectors and professional, union, and political organizations to remain calm and avoid actions that would only bring more grief and sorrow to the Salvadoran people. On behalf of the Salvadoran Government, he also expressed condolences to the family of Herbert Anaya Sanabria, and he reiterated that the crime will be thoroughly investigated so that it will not remain unpunished.

#### Armed Forces Deny Involvement

PA272059 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish  
1800 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Communique issued by Coprefa; date not given]

[Text] In view of the irresponsible statements made by individuals who belong to the self-styled nongovernment Human Rights Commission and other mass organizations that seek to hold the Armed Forces High Command responsible for the attack in which one of their members was killed, the Salvadoran Armed Forces categorically states:

The armed institutions are aware of their constitutional responsibility, and they carry out their actions within the most strict respect for human rights in order to carry out their obligation to defend the sovereignty of the state and the national territory; maintain peace, tranquillity, and public security; and observe all laws of the Republic. In this regard, the Armed Forces carry out actions to protect all citizens in general, with no distinctions—as was evident on 4 October, when the FMLN-FDR Marxist-Leninist leaders arrived in the country, and later when they returned safe and sound to their original places.

This attitude shows the high professional degree of the Armed Forces, from which those individuals whose behavior contradicted the spirit of the institution and the law have been expelled and brought to trial. Therefore, the Salvadoran Armed Forces reject any charges involving the institution in such illegal actions and demand that the citizenry in general not be deceived by tendentious statements that are actually covering up strategic plans of the national and international subversive groups.

In conclusion, the Salvadoran Armed Forces remind the leaders of the various organizations, and the people in general, that the law empowers any people over 21—even those not the target of such an attack—who are aware of a crime that is punishable by law to present formal charges before a judge so the judge can carry out actions to identify the responsible parties for such a crime.

From another quarter, it is reported that the FMLN kidnapped seven peasants. The FMLN terrorists continue violating human rights in the country by kidnapping many peasants throughout the national territory. According to the

information provided, seven people were kidnapped in various places, including Herminia Padilla and her two children—Cain Antonio Reyes, 1; and Carmen Padilla, 17—who were taken from their home in (Techezpulco) Canton, San Pedro (Pulchos), in Ahuachapan.

Jose Luis Alvarado also was kidnapped by subversives in the place known as El Tamarindo, near San Vicente. Rafael Rodriguez Mendoza was taken from San Martin village, 18 km east of San Salvador. Juan Maria Alvarado and Graciela de Ramos also were kidnapped by the terrorists in El Jocotillo village, Mercedes Umana jurisdiction, Usulután Department.

A total of 4 people were killed and 18 were wounded by terrorist mines this month. This represents a considerable increase in the harm the FMLN is inflicting on the Salvadoran people by placing those explosive devices in various rural areas. The latest incident took place yesterday afternoon when Isidra de Jesus Duran Escobar unwittingly stepped on a mine and lost a leg in a tragedy that occurred near El Platanar canton, Suchitoto jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department.

Meanwhile, it was also reported that two FMLN rebels were killed yesterday morning during a clash between a terrorist column and members of the Treasury Police. This armed clash took place near the Miranda Hacienda, Quezaltepeque, La Libertad Department. The troops seized one (?G-3) rifle and one M-1 carbine with cartridges and ammunition.

#### **FMLN Blames Army, Government**

PA272353 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1800 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Communique issued by the FMLN General Command on 26 October]

[Text] 1. The direct responsibility of the Salvadoran Army and Government in the planning and execution of this new crime [the murder of Human Rights Commission Chairman Herbert Sanabria Anaya] is very clear to the people, just as the murder of Marianela Garcia Villa in 1983 was completely clear in the minds of the people. She was a former chairman of the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission. That murder was committed by the Army, whose uniformed members were positively identified at the time. In addition, the people are well aware of the Duarte government's continuing repression of all organizations devoted to the defense of human rights.

2. The murder of the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission chairman is to be added to the series of crimes committed by previous military governments and the most recent governments in which the Christian Democratic Party has participated. These murders include those of Msgr Romero, FDR leaders, and the four U.S. nuns, as well as massacres at Las Hojas, El Mozote, Chompul, La Cayetana, Santa Barbara, and other places.

3. This fact points out that the repression of and injustices against the people have continued and have worsened. These causes sparked the people's war aimed at making a true change in El Salvador.

4. This crime makes evident the absolute falsehood of the amnesty and democratization move with which the government is attempting to mask the antipopular and pro-U.S. armed plan to be implemented by the Christian Democratic government, which is openly subordinated to the Reagan administration. There is evidence of the true repressive nature of the empty policy of pardon and forgiveness propagandized by the government.

5. The Army's paramilitary members carried out this repressive action just after Army Chief of Staff General Onesiforo Blandon announced he would establish the most rigorous military control in San Salvador using Army troops.

6. The FMLN therefore strongly condemns this new bloody aggression by the government against the Salvadoran people, particularly against the human rights institutes and, this time, against Herbert Anaya Sanabria.

7. In the face of this new repressive escalation, the FMLN states the following:

a. The FMLN demands the government respond to the citizens' calls by immediately revealing the assassins or the masterminds of this new crime.

b. The FMLN demands—in view of the existence of a notoriously antipopular, corrupt, and antinational judicial, political, and military system; given the state of general, permanent sociopolitical and military strife in the country; and because the military government is directly involved in this crime—that the government submit a report and respond to the demands of the people's groups and the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission. All of these groups must effectively participate in the assassins' trial and just sentencing.

c. Since this new criminal act is a flagrant attack on the Salvadoran peoples' efforts for a political solution, the FMLN declares that this repressive escalation endangers the holding of the dialogue meeting in Mexico, because if detestable crimes such as this are not cleared up there is no reason to hold that meeting.

In this regard, our FMLN and FDR fronts will issue a joint communique defining their stand. In view of the necessity to prevent new repressive acts on the part of the oppressive Army and the government, the FMLN-FDR call on all the country's patriotic political and social forces; Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, mediator in the dialogue process; the presidents of the Central American countries who signed the Esquipulas II agreement; the governments of the Contadora and Support Group countries; the Inter-American Human Rights Commission; and the specialized bodies of the United Nations and other international human rights organizations

to demand an investigation of the crime and to condemn those responsible for the death of Herbert Anaya Sanabria, chairman of the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission.

To conclude, the FMLN calls on all the working class and all the democratic, national, and humanitarian groups to increase their struggle on all fronts. The path of national liberation, democracy, and total social justice is full of difficulties and sacrifices. We must struggle with the certainty that now we are approaching victory, the true and definitive solutions, and that the Salvadoran people will inevitably win against the puppet, traitorous, and imperialist forces.

The fatherland will win. The path to a solution is a path of national, democratic, and revolutionary struggle. Long live the people's just war.

[Signed] FMLN General Command

Commanders Roberto Roca, Shafick Jorge Handal, Joaquin Villalobos, German Cienfuegos, and Leonel Gonzalez

**FMLN Announces National Transportation Stoppage**  
PA280050 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish  
to El Salvador 0013 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Your attention, please! Radio Venceremos informs all of our people that the FMLN General Command has announced a national transportation stoppage as of 3 November. We repeat, the FMLN General Command has announced a national transportation stoppage as of next Tuesday, 3 November. This stoppage will cover all roads, cities, and towns in El Salvador.

We call on all of our people to take the necessary measures because, we repeat, as of Tuesday, 3 November, the national transportation stoppage will begin. The stoppage will show the people's rejection of the repressive escalation unleashed by the Duarte government, beginning with the assassination of Human Rights Commission Chairman Herbert Anaya Sanabria.

We call on all of our military units, on all of our clandestine militias and guerrillas, and on our urban commandos to begin at once all preparations to turn this strike into our people's firm response to the government's crime. We tell the Christian Democratic government that its crimes will not go unpunished.

**Reconciliation Chairman on Failure of Talks**  
PA272218 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish  
24 Oct 87 p 7

[Article by Rene Hurtado]

[Text] The National Reconciliation Commission could meet with the government and FMLN-FDR delegations to demand that the conversations yield positive results for the benefit of the people, commission Chairman Dr Alvaro Magana Borja told *El Mundo*. Magana said that, first, he has to learn why the meetings held in Caracas, Venezuela, failed.

According to the commission, the suspension of the talks "will not lead us through the path of reconciliation, even though we must admit it is a difficult process. If necessary, we will meet," commission members said. This was announced yesterday to the news media in a report on the progress they have made in the past 14 meetings.

The members of the commission are: Chairman Dr Alvaro Magana, Dr J. Guillermo Trabanino, Alfredo Cristiani, Dr Ricardo Gonzalez Camacho, Msgr Marcos Rene Tevelo, and Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez. The only one missing is Rofolfo Antonio Castillo Claramount, currently acting president of the country.

According to Roberto Vieira, deputy culture and communications minister, "the FMLN-FDR stubbornly refused to discuss the cease-fire and preferred to discuss other aspects of the Esquipulas II Agreements." Vieira said, "Their negative attitude has prevented an agreement on a cease-fire, which is the maximum desire of our people. Actually, what the guerrillas want is to create obstacles for the government in the fulfillment of its commitment. Therefore, in view of the obstacles, we have said that if no agreement is reached on the cease-fire the government will implement it unilaterally, because the FMLN-FDR is playing around, to make the government fail."

Moreover, FDR leader Hector Oqueli Colindres said in Caracas that "the government had simultaneously refused to discuss a cease-fire and other aspects such as human rights, amnesty, democratization, the territoriality of the belligerent forces, and other points of the Esquipulas II Agreements." The meeting was abruptly suspended the night before yesterday after the FMLN-FDR complained about statements made by Alejandro Duarte without a mutual agreement having been reached.

However, according to statements made by Roberto Vieira, both commissions agreed on four points: an open dialogue would be maintained; the same commissions would remain to continue conversations; a meeting would be held, probably in Mexico, between 30 October and 4 November; and, finally, they would discuss which commission would initiate the next meeting and if the meetings are to be held simultaneously, or if the commission should start with the subject of a cease-fire or another one of the Esquipulas II points." [quotation mark as published]

Regarding the National Reconciliation Commission's position on meeting, if needed, with both parties, Vieira stated, "We have to be careful to see if the FMLN-FDR is playing with time in order to place the government in trouble regarding the compliance deadlines of Esquipulas II. The FMLN-FDR takes measures of this type in an attempt to prolong the situation and place the government against a wall regarding the Esquipulas II deadlines. We have to be very careful about this."

## Guatemala

### **Cabrera: No Further Talks With Rebels Planned**

*PA280408 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo  
in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Oct 87*

[Text] Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera has said that for the time being the government does not intend or need to initiate talks with subversives because the first and only conversation in the framework of the Esquipulas II accords has already been held.

Cabrera said he agrees fully with the defense minister in that there is no need to initiate new talks with the rebels because the latter established their position at the first meeting. Consequently, the minister said, the government does not intend to meet with the rebels again.

## Honduras

### **Military Would Accept Expulsion of Contras**

*PA272008 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network  
in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Oct 87*

[Text] The Honduran Armed Forces are willing to accept any decision made by President Jose Azcona Hoyo to expel irregular troops from Honduran territory in compliance with the peace agreement signed in Guatemala City on 7 August.

This was confirmed yesterday by military spokesman Manuel Enrique Flores Benavides when he was asked what role the Nicaraguan contras would play should the Sandinists comply with the agreements known as Esquipulas II.

President Azcona said in Washington last week that the Reagan administration will not leave Honduras alone in facing the Nicaraguan resistance problem should Managua comply with the Guatemala accords.

According to reports published in the United States, the U.S. Government is working on a plan to disarm and withdraw the anti-Sandinists if the Guatemala agreements are complied with. In that case, some fighters would accept the amnesty offered by Managua and others would be transferred to the United States. However, a large number would remain in Honduras. In that case, the Armed Forces would have to disarm the contras remaining in Honduras, particularly those who are stationed at bases on the Nicaraguan border.

Flores Benavides said the decision to expel the irregular troops must be made by the president. He added that should the president decide to comply with this point of the Esquipulas II agreements the military would respect the presidential decision. In that case, the Armed Forces would have to mobilize a large contingent of Honduran troops to the border, where most of the contras struggling to overthrow the Managua regime operate.

According to reports obtained by this station, the decision would have to be carried out because the Guatemala agreements specify that the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission will inspect the area to make sure the agreements are complied with.

## Nicaragua

### **Ortega: No Change in Dialogue Participation**

*PA271720 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish  
1530 GMT 27 Oct 87*

[Report by Mario Zelaya]

[Text] Good morning. Here at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua the fourth round of talks in the national dialogue has begun. Those present are: the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, the Central American Unionist Party, the Democratic Conservative Party, the Social Christian Party, and the Popular Social Christian Party.

[Words indistinct] Carlos Nunez Tellez will tell us about President Daniel Ortega's response after learning about the request presented by eight political parties. Here he is:

[Nunez Tellez] Managua, 27 October 1987. No one surrenders here.

Delegates participating in the national dialogue,

Dear delegates:

Through this letter I inform you that Commander Carlos Nunez Tellez has delivered to me two letters dated 15 October containing the requests by the eight political parties participating in the national dialogue in which they ask me to reconsider my decision regarding the parties that will participate in the national dialogue and the political organizations that have requested to be included in the talks. I would like to inform you that I have carefully reviewed the request and I believe that the best decision is to keep the initial make-up unchanged; that is, to accept in the national dialogue the participation of the 11 legally registered political parties and representation from the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Nicaraguan Democratic Board. The latter has represented a fundamental coalition and has played a political role as part of the opposition in our country.

However, upon learning of your request, and basing myself on the spirit of the letter you have sent me, and being aware of your good will to contribute to peace in Central America, especially in Nicaragua, I have made the following decisions: The participation will be determined by one of the following options:

A. The representation made up by a delegate, an alternate, and five advisers, as decided at the first meeting.

B. The representation made up by the political groups headed by Mario Rapaccioli, Miriam Arguello, and Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro, with a delegate and alternate and five advisers for each one of the groups mentioned. This does not rule out the participation of the Social Christian Party, the Social Democratic Party, or the Constitutionalist Liberal Party, which as duly registered parties have been called to take part in the dialogue.

Based on the request sent on 7 October, the revolutionary government has no objections and agrees with the incorporation into the national dialogue of the groups headed by Eduardo Coronado and Andres Zuniga.

Finally, after analyzing your request regarding the composition of the political parties and groups that will participate in the national dialogue, and based on the letters received, I inform you of the final decisions I have reached, and I express to you my confidence that we will immediately proceed to discuss the regulations and agenda for the national dialogue.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to you my highest personal consideration and esteem.

[Signed] Daniel Ortega Saavedra, President of the Republic of Nicaragua

**FDN Deputy Commander Accepts Amnesty**  
*PA271530 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish*  
1800 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] The Interior Ministry today reported that a contra deputy commander accepted amnesty in northern Nicaragua, where he led a group of more than 400 men.

Dennis Enrique Loaiziga Varela, 26, held various positions in the FDN since joining it in 1985. A few months ago he was appointed deputy commander of the Jorge Salazar Command, which operates in Juigalpa, east of the Blanco River, in the country's central and northern areas in Region 5.

According to official reports, in the past few hours Loaiziga showed up at the Interior Ministry, MINT, offices requesting protection.

The MINT, which did not give any further details on the case, announced that tomorrow Loaiziga will be presented to the press in Juigalpa, 100 km east of Managua.

**Vice President Ramirez Returns From Canada**  
*PA271342 Managua International Service in Spanish*  
0000 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado returned on Sunday from his official visit to Canada, it has been reported in Managua. During his

visit the Nicaraguan vice president explained to the Canadian Government and people the steps Nicaragua has taken to comply with the Esquipulas II peace plan for Central America.

Likewise, Dr Ramirez Mercado officially invited the Canadian Government to participate directly in the peace making efforts of the Central American region. He also invited Charles Clark, Canadian secretary of state for external affairs, to visit Nicaragua.

## Panama

**Esquivel on 'Misguided Policy' in Country**  
*PA262144 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish*  
24 Oct 87 pp 1, 8

[Report on interview with Vice President Roderick Esquivel with unidentified reporter in Managua; no date given]

[Text] Important political democratic figures from Latin America and Europe are currently in Managua to participate in a symposium called the "International Seminar of Democratic Parties for Peace and Democracy in Nicaragua." The vice president of Panama is one of the political figures who is participating in the congress, and he has stood up for his liberal doctrine.

Dr Roderick Esquivel, vice president of the Republic of Panama and president of the Liberal Party of Panama, gave an interesting interview to *La Prensa* in which he discussed important political issues. Here is the interview:

[Reporter] Mr Vice President of Panama, what is your personal and political view concerning the Esquipulas II Agreement's implementation—particularly in Nicaragua?

[Esquivel] "What I have seen so far looks encouraging, because something extremely difficult is being achieved. I congratulate the Central American presidents for achieving this agreement, which represents peace for Central America."

"It is unjust to assume that Nicaragua will not fulfill its pledges, because I have just visited *La Prensa* and I have seen that this part of the agreement has been fulfilled—meaning freedom of the press."

"It grieves me to be here, because *La Prensa* is open in Nicaragua but *La Prensa* is closed in my country. One of the things that I suggested to my government was to advocate freedom of the press, and if this causes me problems, creates difficult situations for me, or if non-democratic groups or government groups consider me 'persona non grata,' then I am sorry."

[Reporter] Why do you say this? Do you feel threatened?

[Esquivel] "Yes, I have problems with my government because I am urging it to follow a democratic guideline."

[Reporter] Referring to your country, what is its current situation? What is your position concerning the government and Defense Forces Commander General Noriega?

[Esquivel] "Dr Eric Arturo Delvalle is a constitutional president, and his term ends in 1989. The legitimacy of his government is not being questioned, even though rightist opposition groups say the elections were a fraud. This is not at stake; he is the constitutional president of Panama."

"If anything could separate us (meaning him and me) it would be 'the democratic or undemocratic way of handling things.' Do I make myself clear?"

[Reporter] How is the Panamanian Government being handled nowadays?

Panamanian Vice President Roderick Esquivel said categorically:

[Esquivel] "There is much disagreement about the way it is being handled."

He added:

"Because of a misguided policy in my country, there are many political prisoners, newspapers have been closed, businesses have closed, freedoms are being violated, and other things like that. I have stated, as vice president of the Republic, that we must sit down and talk before violence really spreads, like the violence you are confronting in Nicaragua."

"It grieves me to see what is happening in Nicaragua; that is why I ask everyone to participate in negotiations. That is the perfect solution to all the political and social problems," he said.

[Reporter] Doctor, you are a direct collaborator with President Eric Delvalle. What is happening? Do you no longer talk with him, or does he no longer pay attention?

[Esquivel] "Yes, he no longer heeds me, and he does not talk to me."

[Reporter] Does it mean that he is giving you the cold shoulder?

[Esquivel] "Frankly, you have said it; he has put me away in cold storage."

[Reporter] We later asked Panamanian Vice President Roderick Esquivel about the Central American situation, particularly the Esquipulas II Agreement's implementation. He said:

[Esquivel] "The beginning is always difficult, because it is a transition, so we must always think about the future; I believe it is positive."

[Reporter] Mr Vice President, the Nicaraguan people and the opposition have drawn the following conclusion from the Esquipulas II Agreement: "If the Sandinists abide by the agreement they will have to leave, and if they do not they will also have to leave." As a politician from another country, how do you feel about this?

[Esquivel] "I believe you should not back the government into a corner. There are many reasons why this would not be good."

[Reporter] Dr Roderick Esquivel, you are vice president in one of the Central American countries that also comprises a peace-seeking group in the area. Do you think the Sandinists should talk with the contras?

[Esquivel] "This is clearly a provision established in the Esquipulas II Agreement, and that is what should be done."

#### On 'Break' With Delvalle

PA261416 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish  
1226 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Interview with Vice President Roderick Esquivel on the "Open Microphone" program hosted by Ramon Jimenez Velez in Panama City—live]

[Text] [Jimenez Velez] Good morning. This is Ramon Jimenez Velez. Today we have Vice President Dr Roderick Esquivel, who has been the topic of national and international news concerning our country's 4-month-long political crisis. We contacted Dr Esquivel and he has agreed to share our "Open Microphone" in order to talk about his arrival in Panama City and about some statements attributed to him as well as some reports appearing in the local press.

Yesterday, we went to the international airport and welcomed the vice president. Along with about 20 national and international newsmen, we were able to talk with the vice president. We covered his arrival as did the international newsmen. The international news agencies sent many reports about his arrival. Today's *La Estrella de Panama* mentions some of these statements in a report under a banner headline reading: Delvalle-Esquivel Break. *Critica* also reports: Roderick Asks for [U.S.] Ambassador Davis' Intervention. This specifically refers to Ambassador Davis, who arrived at the airport escorting Mrs Jean Esquivel to welcome Vice President Esquivel, who was arriving from Managua, Nicaragua, on a regular COPA flight.

We have given you all of this introduction before speaking with Dr Esquivel and talking about the *La Estrella de Panama's* headline referring to the Delvalle-Esquivel break. When he was asked yesterday about the Liberal

Party stand, Dr Esquivel said there might be some action by the Liberal Party, but he said he could not make any statements until he talked with his party's organization. We would like to speak about this break, which apparently began on Thursday, when we reported exclusively that his office at the Banco Nacional Building had been closed by presidential order. We would like to speak about this alleged Delvalle-Esquivel break as reported in *La Estrella de Panama*.

[Esquivel] Ramoncito, what can I tell you? I went to Nicaragua, invited by a foundation called Freedom and Progress, a Spanish foundation. The purpose of the meeting was for democratic parties to discuss the Arias plan, the Esquipulas II plan, and try to collect information on the progress made by this agreement that strives to bring peace and democracy in Central America.

While I was over there I found out—through many phone calls—that my entire office staff had been prevented from going to work, that my office had been closed by individuals dressed in civilian clothes, that the lock on my office door had been changed, and that no one was allowed to enter. I was also told that some distinguished members of my political party had tried to find out what was happening and nobody wanted to give them any information. I contacted [Liberal Party member] David Samudio and asked him to investigate the true meaning of this, since nobody had told me anything.

I later found out all of this was true and that my former office—in other words, the office of the vice president of the Republic, because I do not have anything left in this administration—had been closed. I found out that the automobile assigned to the vice president of the Republic had been withdrawn, and all my escorts or bodyguards had been withdrawn. Evidently, the president of the Republic issued those orders. So how can I answer you? What can I tell you about this Delvalle-Esquivel break?

Evidently, the president does not agree with my line of thought, he does not agree with the recommendations we have been giving him, and he does not agree with the Liberal Party's warnings or with my advice as vice president to the effect that this country cannot be driven into a state of violence and repression; nor can Panamanians be deprived of the liberties to which we are accustomed. Here we are living in an atmosphere of much suspicion. The people are frightened, and this is not an atmosphere for promoting a national dialogue.

Likewise, before departing I had specifically noted that this is a civilized country, that Panamanians cannot be pushed around as if they were a herd of cattle, and I recommended that the bases for a dialogue had to be established. These bases had to be absolute freedom of expression and a general amnesty so there would be no atmosphere of persecution here. Then a commission, made up of trustworthy people, must be appointed to begin a dialogue with the groups that are in conflict.

I still think these are the bases for a dialogue. When I addressed the Kiwanis Club the day before I left, I said I was opposed to the proposals made by other political parties, for coups d'etat or a constituent assembly. I feel we should not disrupt the steps that have been taken so far and convene a constituent assembly. We should not give up direct elections, a Legislative Assembly, or a plan that has the Defense Forces promoting the so-called democratic transition. If mistakes have been made in this transition, or if this transition has not been fast enough, then this must be corrected. I said if a state cannot be ruled according to the law, then something is wrong, and this must be corrected. I said that.

Besides, in Nicaragua I said the legality of the Eric Arturo Delvalle government is not being discussed; it is not in question. It is just a matter of one's viewpoint. I am a democrat, the Liberal Party is a party devoted to democracy, justice, and freedom. We cannot follow any other line. Panama is being viewed as a strong, dictatorial government, where there is disinformation and where there is a state of fear and persecution. That is not good for Panamanians or the government, because this creates an atmosphere of violence. Many groups that can only survive in violence are promoting this violence. Panamanians are not violent, but Panamanians are capable of defending their freedom.

In spite of the fact that peace is something that is very important for us, for our progress and our development, democracy is also important for us. Panamanians have shown they are willing to make sacrifices and engage in violence, if necessary, to defend these principles. We are pushing the country towards violence because we are not holding a dialogue. Simple, but not repressive, measures must be adopted.

Speaking about disinformation, we have an example here of true disinformation, one which provides the reason given as to why some newspapers have been closed. Here is one newspaper, *Critica*, which says that I have been plotting with the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. That is absolutely false, and I deny it. It is true that PDC legislator Carlos Arellano Lennox was at the airport when I returned from Nicaragua. He was not there to receive me. He was on the same COPA plane I was on. The seminar on freedom, progress, and peace held in Nicaragua was attended by a large number of European, Latin American, American, and Canadian senators. The PDC, the Social Democrats, the Liberal Party, and the Conservative Democrats were also invited to this seminar.

Therefore, when I arrived in Nicaragua I found out that the Panamanian Christian Democratic delegate was Carlos Arellano Lennox. Both of us participated in that seminar; we listened to and talked with the Nicaraguan democratic parties about the democratization process. We gave them advice and we told them not to corner the government and to let the government have an outlet.

We also found out about some measures that are causing dissatisfaction in Nicaragua in order to achieve peace according to the Esquipulas agreement.

[Jimenez Velez] I would like to interrupt you to refer to some of the points you have mentioned, before we talk about the Nicaraguan seminar. There are some important things that have arisen as a result of what you have just said, Dr Esquivel. I have here the daily *La Prensa* from Nicaragua, and it carries reports on what you said. You said our country's problems are not being handled properly. You attribute this to an ill-directed policy. For example, there are prisoners, several communications media have been closed, businesses have been closed, certain freedoms have been restricted, and so forth. You added that a dialogue is being avoided, and this might lead to violence. You have just said that the groups that can only live in violence are promoting violence. You have talked about the Defense Forces plan, about correcting errors, about stepping up the transition process; those are some of the problems we are now confronting. Meanwhile, the government insists there is a specific plan for disrupting public order.

When [PDC President] Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon spoke here on "Open Microphone" he proposed what I called a coup d'etat. In other words, he proposed a government junta to replace the current government. On many occasions you have reiterated—and again reiterate in this report that I have here—the government's legitimacy. Therefore, any attempt to change this government is a coup d'etat, a specific attack.

We would like for you to tell us how the government can try to hold a dialogue if there are people promoting violence, if there are groups who want violence. These groups might be encouraged and think the government is weakening.

[Esquivel] Of course, Ramoncito. The longer it takes, the more people feel they are being repressed and persecuted, then the people will resort more to violence and not participate in a dialogue. Therefore, these repeated calls that we have been making to the government to change its style, to show it has a democratic willingness, to show it is willing to hold a dialogue, to show that it respects liberty, democracy, and honesty—these calls are being considered as a seditious stand on my part. That is disinformation. To treat me as a traitor to the fatherland, to treat me as a spy, to treat me in such a low, base style, which is so unworthy of the government, is not really going to fix the problem. The lower their style, the lower the image of the government, which should be uniting all Panamanians right now in order to emerge from violence and underdevelopment so we can have a place among the civilized, progressive, and trustworthy countries. That is not what is being done in this country.

Here, everyone is very frightened. Here, everyone feels their telephones are tapped, that they are being spied on. Nobody dares speak. The professional people, the civilized people are starting to talk in code. The newspapers

were closed, but there are 50,000 clandestine pamphlets. The people are fed up, the people are angry, and they are right in feeling that way. Many injustices are being committed. Not only are injustices committed, but these actions are done in a cruel manner by people who do not even know what human rights are. These people humiliate and frighten the families of professional and ordinary people. We are not living in a democracy. We must assume the responsibility we acquired when we were elected—to resolve the problems of the country. That is what I have said. If to speak in this manner is the reason why they want to humiliate me, then they are going to force me into a true break, and then they will find out what happens when a person feels he is opposed to a government. Until now I have not waged that type of opposition. Rather, I have tried to make suggestions—even if they do not ask me for them—publicly.

Since there is no freedom of expression, there is no freedom of expression, [repeats himself] I have taken advantage of the invitations by civic clubs or public forums, where it is possible to speak. I use these pluralist public forums, where there are people of all political parties, including the government and opposition parties—as it should be. Since the political parties are not true forums where the country's problems can be discussed, then the civic clubs—fulfilling their civic obligations—have become the forums of the national dialogue that the government should be promoting now.

An honest and trustworthy commission should have been appointed a long time ago in order to hold a national dialogue. This is being done in Nicaragua and El Salvador. It would do us a lot of good if we closely read Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' peace plan. We should closely read it. Everyone here speaks about the Esquipulas plan, but no one has read it. It would do our government a lot of good if it voluntarily signed that plan—because we are part of that geopolitical area—and then brought about national reconciliation. That is the only way Panama can emerge from its hole, not by ridiculing, persecuting, and harassing the vice president. And to think this is being done by the civilian government, promoted by the president of the Republic—that is unspeakable, that is unspeakable. [repeats himself] That debases the dignity of the executive branch.

[Jimenez Velez] I would like to ask you if this is going to affect the Liberal Party. The Liberal Party held a meeting in Santiago de Veraguas, and it was clear there was a rift between the group led by Dr Roderick Esquivel and the group led by Government Minister Rodolfo Chiari de Leon. A rift was clear even though the two leaders said, shortly before the voting took place, that they would safeguard the Liberal Party's principles and unity. Nevertheless, it seems that the party's unity will suffer as a result of Dr Esquivel's current situation—which implies that people linked with Dr Esquivel will be ousted from the government... [corrects himself] sorry, from public posts, and will be replaced by people linked to Minister Chiari de Leon. Well, will this affect the Liberal Party,

given its much-undermined unity and subsequent splintering into small groups? What will the new situation lead to? How will it affect Dr Roderick Esquivel and Minister Rodolfo Chiari de Leon?

[Esquivel] I believe that the Liberal Party has never been more united; united about the idea that the only reason for the Liberal Party's existence is the defense of democracy. Of course, many of the party's alleged leaders have shown their true colors during this so-called transition. They lack the necessary ideological education and devotion to the country. They advocate the old idea that political parties can be used as instruments to attain economic power and personal benefits, without sacrifices and without caring for the voters, meaning the small Liberal who is loyally dedicated to his party and ideology by tradition, conviction, or whatever pleases you. We have not unmasked those men—who are only politicians—because they have shed their own masks. A Liberal Party leader who is pledged to defend freedom of the press cannot censure a newspaper in a voluntary, cruel, and cynically happy way simply because freedom of the press had become endangered. [sentence as heard] They have shed their own masks. I cannot tell you what will happen within the Liberal Party, but I can tell you that it will happen. The Liberal Party is now proving—with facts, not mere rhetoric—that it is a party dedicated to the defense of democracy, and it will have to prove this again and again with facts. Likewise, it is a tolerant party, because tolerance is a liberal characteristic, but I do not know how much more it can tolerate. I will not speak on behalf of the party about this issue; the Liberal Party will speak for itself, and, as a Liberal Party leader, I have never wanted to be ahead of or behind my party. I want to be with my party; I want to be a member of my party. Consequently, I will let the regular party organizations issue statements on the situation. I do not want to discuss the Liberal Party any more.

[Jimenez Velez] We might take something else into consideration since you have talked about misinformation. You referred to *Critica's* headlines and the article that says you were a spy in the cabinet council and that you were linked with Christian Democratic leaders because Dr Carlos Arellano Lennox welcomed you. You state that Dr Arellano Lennox came with you from Nicaragua, where he had also participated in a meeting. The newspaper article says: Dr Roderick Esquivel requested U.S. Ambassador Davis' intervention to return to Panama. That is *Critica's* headline, printed in red ink. It also shows a picture of you and Ambassador Davis. We saw Ambassador Davis upon his arrival at the airport, accompanying your wife. We would like to hear your views about this situation and the reports that you participated in meetings in Washington when you traveled to Canada to participate in an international Liberal meeting. This was presented as a shady maneuver or conspiracy. Can you talk about this?

[Esquivel] Well, I think the newspaper that wrote this article is well-known in Panama because it always has a distrustful attitude and uses a tone that is extremely

harmful for the government and the newspaper's owners. An ambassador is waiting to welcome me every time I return to the country from a trip abroad. I am extremely grateful for this. The Honduran ambassador has welcomed me upon my return from recent trips. The nuncio has also come to the airport to welcome me on several occasions. Ambassador Davis went to the airport this time to welcome me. I appreciate that very much.

First, there were a lot of rumors in Panama, given the shady actions carried out against a vice president. A lot of rumors in Panama implied that my family's welfare, and my own welfare and life, were endangered. It is natural that any ambassador from a democratic country—particularly Ambassador Davis, who has tried to establish all kinds of friendships in this country to understand us better and help us—should come to the airport. Also, he called my house to ask the details about my arrival, and he learned that my wife did not have transportation to the airport—so he offered to take her. He did not go to the airport to look after me; he went to welcome me, as an act of courtesy toward the vice president of the Republic. This says a lot for him. He did it at a time when he knew that a defender of democracy was being harassed. He also knew that there were a lot of rumors about my rights as a politician, man, and Panamanian citizen, and my dignity as vice president of the Republic.

If an ambassador is not allowed a gesture of courtesy upon the arrival of a vice president in any civilized country of the world, then that country is in pretty bad shape—and that is happening in Panama! I challenge any member of this government to come here, with me, and compare his patriotism, dedication, and nationalism with mine—because I do have roots in this land; I was born in our countryside and I grew up there. I was educated in public schools; I never went to a private school, I never had silk diapers. I am from this land, I love this land, and I love freedom. I do not want a country where the people are persecuted and where Panamanians feel belittled. I do not want a country where Panamanians are not proud to be Panamanians. That is what I defend. I do not like traitors. I will not be cowed by those who accuse me of many things.

Can you imagine, Ramon, and can you imagine, La Exitosa listeners, that a vice president is accused of being a spy because he wants to know what is happening in his country! That is unspeakable! That is absurd! The newspaper adds that it has been ascertained that I spied on the Cabinet Councils. What did I spy for? Who did I spy for? Perhaps they want a vice president who is a pawn or a figurehead being manipulated by a political party or a small group that has practically reduced the country to a state of tension and that debases human rights. People's rights are violated when they live in fear, and we will not resolve our problems that way. I have never lifted a finger or accused anyone in this country. I do not accuse anyone if I do not have the evidence. However, I am the

target of misinformation. Once more I ask the government to restore the bases for a dialogue. I am willing to participate in a dialogue, but I am also a political leader in this country. I am also the vice president of the Republic, and I will not resign from that post. I do not have to insist on this. People know how to analyze things—and the Panamanians are intelligent people—and we know what the newspaper headline means. We clearly know what it means.

[Jimenez Velez] Before we discuss the important meeting in Nicaragua—and before the commercials—I would like to ask Dr Esquivel about the current situation. Certain opposition political groups demand that the government take specific actions. For example, the Christian Democrats demand violent changes, and I really mean violent, because they demand a government junta. I have never heard of a government junta peacefully replacing a government. Referring to the situation in the country and the arrests due to actions that the government describes as subversive and seditious, in sum, regarding all this, it seems that everyone has forgotten that we will begin an electoral process in less than 1 year. This should end with the general elections in 1989. Do you think it is possible for us to prepare, without major problems, for an electoral process that does not involve violence? We will now go for a commercial break and then return with Dr Esquivel's answer. [2-minute commercial break]

We will repeat the question regarding the national situation, which we put to Vice President Dr Roderick Esquivel before the commercials. Concerning this whole situation and the crisis over the past 4 months, which now seems to be taking its most decisive turn—we have reported some people have gone into hiding and others have left the country—it is a difficult situation, and there have been very specific government actions. The government, at the level of the Cabinet Council, ordered measures by the police in view of what it called an attempt to oust the government. The basis for saying there is such an attempt could be the statement by the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, calling for the establishment of a government junta. Anyway, in view of this situation, and in view of the fact that next year—that is, within a few months—the pre-election process should begin, so that the political parties can begin the preparations for the elections in 1989 that in turn should reaffirm the path for the country's democratization—this was promised during the 1984 elections, when some adjustments were made to the national Constitution and to the Electoral Code—therefore, in view of this situation, what policy changes can you, Dr Esquivel, see? Are we prepared to start the election process without major difficulties, or could it on the contrary even mean... [changes thought] The Electoral Tribunal recently said if it fails to get the 22 million balboas it needs there can be no elections. Thus, in view of all of these circumstances, what are your views on that possibility, and what kind of political situation do you think the country could endure?

[Esquivel] I believe not having elections in 1989 would be a disaster for the democratic transition in Panama. On the other hand, if we do not end this state of tension, of discontent, and of demonstrations by all citizens, and if we do not sit down to see the development of the elections and the meaning of the elections, we will not be able to hold elections. This, I repeat, would be a disaster for Panama. Central America has been the geopolitical epicenter of violence and the area where we have been lacking freedoms, etc. When one sees that in El Salvador there are national reconciliation commissions to hold talks with the armed political-military groups carrying out violent actions; when one sees that in Nicaragua, with a Marxist-Leninist government in power, they are now admitting that citizens do not want that repressive, totalitarian government; and when one sees that the Nicaraguan newspaper *La Prensa* was reopened, without conditions—I was talking with Mrs Violeta de Chamorro and with Jaime Chamorro, who confirmed to me that aside from physical limitations there have been no conditions imposed from outside. [sentence unfinished] Here in Panama we have closed down the newspapers *La Prensa*, *El Siglo*, and *Extra*, which are opposition newspapers. In fact, those opposition newspapers' positions have been against me personally. I repeat, I prefer some excess in the media over having censorship or having public opinion completely disregarded. I have quoted this statement by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who received a well deserved Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts and the message they conveyed promoting peace. Such efforts are a source of pride for Costa Ricans.

So, what conditions would we have for holding elections that would satisfy the needs of Panamanian citizens in a cosmopolitan and civilized country, which in the past set an example in the fields of education, economic growth, and public health? All of that has been deteriorating. Are we going to have to return to the misery, the violence, and the cannibalism [as heard] among Panamanians so that governments will finally react and establish the bases for dialogue? This is the question I have been asking myself. This is the recommendation I made to the government, including the Defense Forces [FDP], to whom I have given all credit for promoting a democratic opening, beginning with the implementation of the Constitution and up until now. I have advised them that they should also make recommendations or they will lose the reputation and the admiration they received from our people for promoting the democratization. What they are receiving now is hatred. We have treated the FDP with much respect and professionalism, but never with fear. There should be no confusion about that. We make the painful observation that the FDP is now receiving a lot of hatred.

Now, the PDC proposal has been an open one. The PDC is accusing us of being inefficient. That is the charge they have leveled against the civilian government. The PDC is saying this government has not proven its ability to win the Panamanian people's loyalty and credibility. Our reaction then was to call them subversive and

seeditious. I am not defending the PDC in particular, because they are also our adversaries, but we have to admit that this time they are right. We, the Liberal Party, are against a coup d'etat, and we have openly told the PDC so. We are opposed to a change in our democratic transition. We have told them we cannot undo the steps we have taken thus far. What we must do is sit down to determine the errors we have made and to correct them so the Panamanian people will not suffer and so we politicians will face the voters with responsibility. We must sit down to talk, with no paranoia, with no hatred. Or is it that we are enemies? We are adversaries, but we are not enemies.

We must be united in this task of enriching the country for the happiness of the Panamanian people, but we have not been trying to do this. Therefore, the Liberal Party is against undoing those steps, it is against a coup d'etat, and it is against establishing a constituent assembly. The Liberal Party wants to continue with the transition process, establishing the bases for national peace, for the satisfaction of the Panamanian people, so the state may have credibility. The Liberal Party wants to strengthen the country's institutions and quickly establish the bases for having true and significant elections in 1989. If the Electoral Tribunal, which does not have and has not the sufficient resources to fulfill its duty, has already said it lacks the necessary resources to hold honest elections, then we should take the necessary steps to provide them with the necessary resources. Sometimes funds are not spent reasonably. The 1989 elections are very important for the country and for Panamanians; thus, we should invest funds for that purpose. That is our opinion, Ramoncito.

[Jimenez Velez] In the case of the sanctions the U.S. Senate plans to impose on Panama—based on a number of recommendations it made for what it has called the transition to democracy—we believe, and we have said, that those sanctions have direct repercussions on the Panamanian people more than on any government action. Today, the housing minister told Cadena Exitosa that the suspension of aid by AID means a delay in the urban development plan—which is very necessary here—as well as some other measures, which could affect, for example, not only the economically powerful sectors that could survive those measures, but also the poor sectors who depend on this economic aid. We would like to know your views regarding the possibility that Panama could be affected by these economic sanctions, which have never produced the expected results. In some cases such sanctions have even resulted in the need for the sanctioned countries to seek alternate sources, thus heading toward ideological sectors that are not necessarily the ones we share here in our country. What can you tell us about this?

[Esquivel] Well, Ramon, personally, and as a member of the Liberal Party, we have been opposed to those sanctions. The U.S. executive branch itself has opposed such sanctions. President Reagan himself has asked the U.S.

Congress to not impose sanctions. U.S. foreign affairs are handled by the executive branch and it has asked the Congress not to impose sanctions; however, the Congress has not listened. In the United States, with the congressmen, who are the ones in charge of approving budgets, there is the opinion that Panama is an enemy of the United States and that Panama is rapidly moving toward a military dictatorship. That is the idea they have. As a Liberal Party leader and vice president of this country, I have tried to convince those I can that this is not necessarily the case, that Panama is not an enemy of the United States, that Panama is in the middle of a democratic transition, and that these obstacles we have been facing are a result of this transition. A transition from a dictatorship to a democracy is not easy. Maybe we need all this so that politicians and the Panamanian people realize the true meaning of these extremely important times we are living in.

In the past elections, which were the first direct elections in the country after the Torrijos era, when there were no elections of this kind, the Panamanian people went to vote almost without realizing the great importance of those elections. Politicians in general were not prepared to understand the meaning of those elections. Many candidates did not even know what they were running for. There were many candidates running for Corregimiento representatives who thought things would be the same as in the previous assembly and were disappointed to find out otherwise.

All these obstacles and all these things are the result of a transition. We should not be discouraged. We have the right to be optimistic. I have publicly recommended that the National Civic Crusade not become fanatic and to remember what Santayana said: To renew ones efforts when one has lost the concept of what one is fighting for is called fanaticism. Fanaticism is dangerous.

The Panamanian people want a decent and real democracy with freedom, progress, and guarantees. That is what we want and that is what all Panamanian people want. The National Civic Crusade should keep this in mind. They should not become fanatical.

The position of the Liberal Party is clear. We believe economic sanctions by the United States will indeed affect all Panamanian economic sectors. We believe they could bring about serious changes. These sanctions are indeed important, because the United States has always helped us; however, now they have the policy of not helping countries that are not truly democratic. The U.S. Senate and all United States legislative bodies are firm on that, and evidently they will approve sanctions against Panama. AID has invested in Panama in development projects and in the welfare of the Panamanian people for a long time; therefore, their help will be missed. Moreover, the fact that the United States will approve sanctions against the Panamanian Government

is also a signal for other countries that are currently helping Panama. We could find out that sources of credit have closed their doors, and that is another danger.

All this can be corrected. We still have time to correct. We still have time to correct these things. We will not resolve this problem by lashing out against a world power with which we have had a great relationship and from which we have received help. First let us resolve our problems and let us show that we are capable of organizing this country. For this to happen, leadership should unavoidably be in the presidency. There is where it should be. That is why I have asked the president to establish the true groundwork for a dialogue.

[Jimenez Velez] Do you believe that the possibility of economic sanctions could turn us back from the road toward a democratic transition?

[Esquivel] Exactly. You said it. It could turn us back. However, there can be a poor country with a democratic calling. The Panamanian people do not have any other calling but to be free men.

[Jimenez Velez] Speaking of that democratic calling, we would like to take the opportunity in this last part of the "Open Microphone" program with Vice President Roderick Esquivel to ask him about the democratization attempts in countries such as Nicaragua, with defined ideological positions, which were discussed at the meeting in Nicaragua, in which it was seen how a government with Marxist-Leninist roots, as Esquivel has described it, can advance toward pluralism and toward democracy. The significance of this could also mean a democratic opening in the rest of Latin America.

[Esquivel] I think Nicaragua's experience has forced it to realize that the Nicaraguan people want freedom, the opportunity to be a developed country, and a country proud of what it has. They want to be like Costa Ricans, who are proud of their democracy. Their democracy has generated great progress. One can breathe freedom and progress all over the country. It is the Central American country which has undergone all the most changes toward modernization in its agriculture, industries, exports, balance of payments, and political style.

I have visited Nicaragua many times before the Somoza dictatorship, [as heard] during the Somoza dictatorship, before and after the earthquake, and after this revolution. In Nicaragua there is a great disarray and horrible poverty. One can see poverty all over the place. Nicaragua's currency is like confetti; it is worthless. Nicaraguans seem overwhelmed by poverty. People are seen lining up everywhere to get coupons to purchase things like rice, gasoline, and so forth.

These experiences, the constant actions by the Nicaraguan people, and the deaths of 45,000 Nicaraguans already in this internal strife or violence—there are another 45,000 people crippled and maimed by the war,

and approximately half a million Nicaraguans in exile because they fled the country—in sum, all these circumstances and this deterioration have prompted a government like that one to establish the basis for a national dialogue and to seek a solution in view of the existence of a Central American plan and after having participated in the Contadora Group. All Nicaraguans should agree on what they want. Nicaraguans should have free elections. They should hold a dialogue with the armed rebels. They should fill any vacuum there may be with a democratic opposition that operates within Nicaragua.

Therefore, we have already seen the basis for this dialogue. I have just attended a meeting at the invitation of the Spanish Light and Progress foundation, an international democratic organization. I have been there with Swedish, Swiss, German, Canadian, U.S., Guatemalan, Honduran, and Salvadoran senators as well as members of the executive branch of governments, such as the Salvadoran foreign trade minister. He was there. He belongs to the Salvadoran commission for peace, conciliation, and armistice with the guerrillas. There were Costa Ricans. There were Social Democrats, Christian Democrats, Liberals, and Conservatives. The Nicaraguan Communist Party was also there, which claims to be democratic and opposed to the FSLN regime. It was there.

We had great freedom to meet in Nicaragua. We did it as democrats. We were given assurances. We met at a Managua convention center that was built recently. We visited Managua's *La Prensa* newspaper and talked to the Chamorro family. We talked to people in the streets. We did not feel we were in a police state as happens when there is repression. The bases for a dialogue are being established, heeding the appeal by Costa Rican President Arias. It is a very good plan. All of us know that the plan will encounter difficulties. However, it is a start. As for the Nicaraguan Government, which is a very totalitarian regime that arose as the result of a violent revolution, it is seeing the way toward conciliation of Nicaraguans so the people do not suffer. We cannot lead Panama toward poverty, where the quality of human beings is reduced to the minimum, and then start seeking this dialogue. We have a great country. Let us keep it that way. Let us not tear it down. That is the obligation of political leaders.

[Jimenez Velez] I would like to conclude this program with a question regarding... [changes thought] I have here with me the 24 October issue of Managua *La Prensa*, as I said a short while ago. The newspaper prominently displays on its front page an interview with you, Dr Esquivel. I am going to read a question and its answer, and then I will tell you why I am asking you this question. The question reads: Mr Vice President, the Nicaraguan people and the opposition have drawn the following conclusion from the Esquipulas II Agreement: If the Sandinists abide by the agreement they will have to leave, and if they do not they will also have to leave. As

a politician from another country, how do you feel about this? Your reply is: I believe you should not back the government into a corner. There are many reasons why this would not be good.

Dr Esquivel, do you think the pressures you recently mentioned—even like your advice to the Civic Crusade—those particular pressures that can back any government into a corner, might make the government react in such a way that might prevent a move toward democratization?

[Esquivel] Surely. I think a dialogue must go both ways. If the opposition to any government needs the opportunity to achieve power through elections and needs that opportunity to be created, they must not pressure that government or threaten to totally destroy it as the basis for a dialogue. If the opposition wants a genuine dialogue and asks or demands this from that government, it must be willing to have a dialogue. It should not impose overbearing conditions such as the establishment of a government junta or this or that. Let us hold talks on what we already have. I have given this same advice to the Nicaraguan democratic opposition. They cannot put the current Sandinist government in the position that if it negotiates it will disappear, and if it does not it will also disappear. That cannot be. It is not logical. It is unreasonable. That applies here, too. I believe the pro-government parties have the same right to take their case to the ballot boxes and prove they are the better choice through free elections.

However, the opposition should not back them into a corner and say these parties will disappear, one way or the other. That is not necessarily true.

**Esquivel Declares 'War' on Government**  
PA262322 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish  
26 Oct 87 pp 1, 39

[Article by Mario Martinez Puente]

[Excerpt] After reaching a pact with the Nicaraguan Christian Democrats, Vice President Roderick Esquivel requested U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis' intervention to enter his country, which corroborates the meetings and breakfasts during which Esquivel offered himself to replace President Eric Arturo Devalle.

The attitude assumed by Davis and by Carlos Arellano Lennox, vice president of the Panamanian Christian Democratic Party [PDC], who received Esquivel at the Omar Torrijos Herrera Airport, shows Esquivel's links with the U.S. Embassy and with the green star party [PDC].

It also confirms that whenever there were incidents related to the national political situation, he showed his disloyalty by attacking his electoral partners and fellow party members.

In this regard, one can better understand now the vice president's attitude of not attending the Cabinet Councils, although he continues to receive his paycheck and he had been notified of the meetings by the Presidency. However, whenever he did attend the meetings he wanted to be informed of the results and requested the transcripts of the meetings. It was a sort of espionage, after which he made negative comments that later circulated in all the political circles.

The straw that broke the camel's back was Vice President Esquivel's statement against the president of the Republic at a Kiwanis Club meeting. Esquivel accepted insulting questions against the president and then gave ill-intentioned answers. That was—no more, no less—declaring war on the government.

Political speculations indicate that either Roderick follows his own "kamikaze" strategy or he relies on the support of the U.S. Embassy as an alternative to the PDC plan proposed in Washington regarding the departure of President Delvalle.

Roderick had as "political space" the IDAAN [Institute of National Aqueducts and Sewers], INDE [National Sports Institute], and the Agricultural-Livestock Insurance Institute, whose directors have been replaced by order of the president.

The changes—according to political analysts—fit in with the plan of electoral alliances in search of a presidential candidate who will unify the nationalist roots of the Panamanians and defeat at the polls the opposition parties, which appear today with an abusive and exaggerated foreign presence that humiliates and degrades the Panamanian voter. [passage omitted]

**PRD Legislator Paredes Criticizes Esquivel**  
PA261913 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish  
1738 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, Legislator Rigoberto Paredes today commented on the situation posed by Vice President Roderick Esquivel and his links with the U.S. ambassador to our country. On this topic, Paredes said:

[Begin Paredes recording] I do not share Esquivel's views, which in a sense seem more like those of the Civic Crusade. I once heard a statement by him and expressed my criticism. Now, his presence here and the support he has received from the U.S. ambassador has piqued our curiosity. If this was a deliberate and intentional action—which seems to be the case—by the ambassador at a time when we are facing a delicate domestic situation, we regard this as not only the ambassador's meddling in Panama's domestic affairs. It would also imply that Esquivel seems to be demonstrating the idea that he endorses U.S. intervention and violations of Panama's sovereign rights. [end recording]

**Presidency on Esquivel Office Closure**  
*PA270037 Panama City Circuito RPC Television  
in Spanish 2325 GMT 26 Oct 87*

[Text] In view of recent statements by Vice President Dr Roderick Esquivel, the Presidency's Press Office has issued a communique stating the following:

1. The assertions by the vice president that the national government has not attempted to hold a dialogue are untrue. The president issued a call for a dialogue during his address to the nation on 5 July 1987, and he has repeatedly said this is the only way for both parties to find points of agreement. The president's sense of responsibility in seeking to hold a dialogue is a reflection of the desires of the presidents and secretaries of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], Republican Party, and PALA [Labor Party]. The rejection of a dialogue has been clearly stated by the so-called Civic Crusade, which the vice president is attempting to woo.

2. It is also untrue that the vice president has not been notified of cabinet meetings. He has always been notified, and written proof exists of each of those notifications. His absence is due to personal reasons. As Dr Esquivel knows well, according to the Constitution the vice president is bound to attend Cabinet Council meetings and he has a right to express his opinion, but not to vote.

3. The vice president has admitted he has not attended any cabinet meetings for the last 3 months. This proves he is not carrying out his official duties. Taking into consideration the austerity measures approved by the General Council of State on 7 October to stop any unnecessary expense, it was decided to return the personnel assigned to the Vice President's Office to their parent organizations. Moreover, and to ensure the vice president would be able to remove his personal belongings, it was decided to close the vice president's office until he returned to this city.

4. We are unaware of the rumors and harassment the vice president claims are directed against him.

Panama City, 26 October 1987

**Government Minister To Stay in Liberal Party**  
*PA272207 Panama City Circuito RPC Television  
in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Oct 87*

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari declared this morning that he would not resign from the Liberal Party. He made the following statements minutes before the cabinet meeting:

[Begin recording] [Chiari] I am not going to comment at this time on Dr Esquivel's statements because he has been referring mostly to the government and to the

president of the Republic. Concerning his political statements, our group is going to hold a meeting, evaluate what he has said, and make the pertinent decisions that we will reveal in due time.

[Reporter] Are you going to resign from the Liberal Party before you are expelled from it?

[Chiari] Never. I was born a Liberal and I will remain a Liberal.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, they say they are going to withdraw from UNADE [National Democratic Union]. What is your opinion?

[Chiari] That is their opinion. We decided in a convention to give our support to UNADE, to support this government; and we will continue following that line until the convention decides something else.

[Reporter] The press (?law) has received a lot of criticism. How do you feel about that criticism?

[Chiari] That is being discussed at the Assembly. The deputies have been questioning many people who work in that area. They will take into consideration all those ideas and all those proposals, and then come up with a law that will really be best for all Panamanians.

[Reporter] Do you feel Dr Esquivel's position agrees in any way with the opposition?

[Chiari] I do not know. Frankly, I do not know, but it would seem that way. [end recording]

**Paper Urges U.S. Ambassador's Expulsion**  
*PA271632 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish  
26 Oct 87 p 4*

[Editorial: "Interventionism Has Been Confirmed"]

[Text] The presence [at the airport] of U.S. Ambassador to Panama Arthur Davis is one more confirmation of the U.S. interventionism in the internal affairs of our country and of the open opposition of Vice President Esquivel to the present government, which he has been sabotaging for the past few months.

Diplomatic representatives must be very cautious of their actions and must adjust to the rules established in the Vienna Convention and stay within the limits of impartiality that must prevail in the relations among countries.

Mr Davis has topped his actions against the Panamanian Government with an unusual action by going to the airport to welcome Dr Roderick Esquivel, when we all know this was a political action against the constitutionally elected government. With his presence, Mr Davis wanted to tell Panama and the world that Esquivel had U.S. Government support and that he could be the

alternative for change. His actions are in complicity with the traitors to the fatherland who want us to be under U.S. domination so the Canal Treaties can be modified and the current president can become a puppet subject to the will of Washington. The goal is to sweep out everything accomplished by General Omar Torrijos Herrera after a cruel struggle.

However, Mr Davis and the retinue of Panamanian henchmen following him around here and in the United States have forgotten there are people here, where the seed planted by Torrijos has sprouted and will grow up to prevent the killing of Torrijism.

Today, the Panamanian Security Council had to call an urgent meeting to evaluate the effects of Mr Davis' presence at an airport political meeting staged for Dr Esquivel's return to the country.

We hope the Security Council will issue a firm statement supporting the Assembly decision to declare Davis persona non grata and will order that Davis be expelled from the country.

The dignity of our country is above everything else. Enough is enough; it is necessary to stop outrages by a diplomat who seems to have forgotten the rules of diplomacy and who believes he has come to the country with a whip in his hand, like the U.S. cowboys. That is something Panama cannot permit.

#### **Actions by U.S. Ambassador Criticized**

PA271404 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish  
0000 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Editorial]

[Text] The National Security Council meeting held a few hours ago analyzed in a highly responsible manner the behavior of Ambassador Arthur Davis and his embassy personnel, as well as that of AID officials in Panama.

The presence of Ambassador Davis yesterday to welcome Vice President Dr Roderick Esquivel was an unprecedented intervention; it is an escalation of provocation. These [U.S. Embassy] officials have been engaging in political activities, sponsoring disorder, and conducting activist campaigns on Panamanian soil, beyond the diplomatic limits of their official activities.

The National Security Council studied this situation and all its implications and asked Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias to give a detailed report on these activities, as well as the ways that may be used to end them.

The Legislative Assembly declared Ambassador Davis persona non grata over 3 months ago, yet he continues to act outside the norms that regulate diplomacy and clearly stipulate the limits of a foreign mission in the country where it is accredited.

It is frankly intolerable that the U.S. Embassy should devote itself to encouraging agitation. We believed it would not be necessary to have to repeat that we are in the last years of the 20th Century and that in this day and age no country can allow its status as a sovereign country to be mocked by diplomats who have always been treated with the respect due their high office. But since Arthur Davis, John Maisto, and the AID officials believe they are protected by their haughtiness, it is high time that we take measures to safeguard our status as a free country.

Let us repeat Cicero's historic quotation: How long, Catiline, are you going to abuse my patience? In this country, our country, and at this television station, we have always been, and remain, true friends of the noble and brave U.S. people. We believe that the people of the United States know nothing about the scandalous behavior of their diplomatic representatives and are, therefore, not responsible for the many excesses. But it is high time that Ambassador Davis understand once and for all that he has to act in accordance with our status as a free and sovereign nation. Frankly, there is nothing else he can do.

#### **Abadia Accuses U.S. of Violating Treaties**

PA271341 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish  
0418 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Yesterday, Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias accused the United States of violating the Panama Canal Treaties signed in 1977 by U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian head of state Omar Torrijos. The Panamanian minister's remarks that the treaties are being violated came at a meeting of the Rio Group with his colleagues from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Abadia Arias said the unilateral imposition of Law 96-70, approved by the U.S. Congress without consulting the Panamanian Government, constitutes the fundamental violation of those treaties. The minister said that according to that law, the U.S. Treasury will not spend a cent on the canal's maintenance. However, the Torrijos-Carter Treaties state that the U.S. Government must provide maintenance until the year 2000, when the canal is returned to Panamanian control. Foreign Minister Abadia Arias said the facts show that Law 96-70 is being implemented instead of the treaties.

Moreover, Abadia Arias noted that his government has evidence of links between the opposition National Civic Crusade and some U.S. senators. He denied that General Manuel Antonio Noriega's leadership of the Panamanian Defense Forces constitutes an obstacle to the country's capacity to obtain foreign investments. There has been an extensive disinformation campaign that has been very well organized and financially supported, and, logically, it has created that impression, the official said.

### U.S. Trying To Influence Military Students

PA270221 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA  
in Spanish 26 Oct 87 pp a-1, a-14

[Text] Reliable information obtained by our reporters indicates that Panamanian military personnel studying in the United States are subjected to all kinds of inducements and pressures by the U.S. "establishment."

Our reports have allowed us to establish that the following questions are asked during these efforts: 1. Why is your salary so low? 2. Why are promotions delayed? 3. Why do the captains and majors not stage a coup d'etat? 4. Why do you not get closer to the Americans and accept invitations extended to you, like the other Latin American students—two Central American countries were mentioned—who are invited together with their families on a regular basis and are offered special benefits?

The constant harassment of Panamanian military personnel studying in the United States includes invitations from Americans to parties, to drink, to introduce them to women, and to take them home for family activities. The Americans also evaluate the students' ideology. In addition, an effort is made, in accordance with a State Department plan, to make them believe they were sent to study in the United States as exiles.

This plan was once again confirmed when a Puerto Rican military officer—who was recruited a long time ago, was a professor at the School of the Americas, was demoted, and was sent to Nicaragua—suggested during a lecture that "Panama's problem" has a name. All the Panamanian students got to their feet and unanimously said, yes, Panama's problem has a name, and that name is the Panama Canal run "by you, the Americans."

Finally, Gabriel Lewis Galindo [former Panamanian ambassador to the United States] has said it has been learned from a State Department report that the State Department has implemented a plan to evaluate our students and see how they can be influenced.

### PDC on 'Unprecedented Repression' of State

PA270038 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA  
in Spanish 26 Oct 87 pp A-1, A-14

["Communique to the Nation" issued by the Political and Executive Committee of the Panamanian Christian Democratic Party [PDC] on 25 October in Panama City]

[Text] In view of the current crisis and the incidents that took place on 22 October, the PDC voices its strongest protest to the nation and international public for the unprecedented repression that all Panamanians have been subject to through a virtual suspension of fundamental guarantees, a total disregard for legal norms and constitutional guarantees, and a systematic disrespect for human rights by the military regime.

We express our deep concern over the well-being of citizens illegally arrested by the Panamanian Defense Forces. These people have been denied all possibility of legal assistance and personal contacts with lawyers and relatives. Based on past experiences, we fear for their well-being, especially regarding our fellow party members and sympathizers because the regime has not hidden its nationwide acts to harass the PDC leaders, members, offices, and equipment.

We ask for the solidarity of the Catholic Church, international human rights organizations, and democratic governments to intercede for humanitarian reasons and share our concern for the lives and well-being of Panamanians whose only crime has been to demand freedom, justice, and democracy in our country.

We pointed out to the countries of the Contadora Group and Central American region that a government that represses and persecutes its people, sponsors paramilitary hordes, closes independent news media, is the result of an election fraud, and flagrantly violates the Constitution and laws can hardly participate in the revision and implementation of the Esquipulas II agreement. If that were the case, it should be demanded that the Panamanian Government meet the basic aspirations of its people; that is, freedom, justice, and democracy.

Through the use of paramilitary groups, the military regime is brazenly promoting state terrorism against the civilian population. The people have expressed their protests and demands for justice and liberty through more than 200 civic, social, economic, trade, professional, political, and religious organizations.

Considering that the regime has resorted to uncalled for violence to repress our people's commitment toward freedom, we are publicly accusing it of pushing the people toward violent actions that all of us would regret and nobody wants for our country. **All people must reject the violence that the regime is currently propitiating.** [boldface type as published] We reiterate that our struggle to achieve decency in the country is peaceful and civic. We, Panamanians, are convinced that maintaining the struggle along this course will ensure final victory for us.

PDC Political and Executive Committee

Guillermo Cochez, acting President

Edwin Cabrera, Communications and Propaganda Secretary

Panama, 25 October 1987

**Paper Owners, Journalists Reject Press Law**  
*PA262247 Paris AFP in Spanish 1632 GMT 26 Oct 87*

[Text] Lima [as received], 25 Oct (AFP)—The Panamanian press rejected a draft law presented recently by President Eric Delvalle to the National Assembly that contemplates strict regulations on the exercise of journalism in Panama.

On being consulted by the Assembly, the associations of journalists and owners of communications media agreed that the new press bill must be improved to guarantee freedom of information.

The draft law—according to which the journalist is solely responsible for the reports published—expressly prohibits publishing false, distorted, and inexact news, or calling for the replacement of the established constitutional authorities.

Such a law was proposed by the government as a means of confronting a grave political crisis that began almost 5 months ago when Colonel Roberto Diaz, the former number two leader of the Panamanian Army, leveled serious charges against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the "strongman" of Panama.

In that context, six opposition media have been closed by order of the Government and Justice Ministry since 27 July for "inciting to the disruption of public order," based on Diaz' charges.

Also, Col Diaz was arrested on 27 July, accused of, among other crimes, committing libel and slander against Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces.

In the first period of consultation by the Assembly with the different sectors regarding the press bill the rejection was unanimous, but the legislators noted that they will consider the observations to make modifications. One of the principal criticisms of the draft law is that it exempts the source of all responsibility regarding the information, placing it totally on the journalist.

Rafael Candanero, of the University of Panama, stated that "the sources must assume their responsibility, because the journalists are only go-betweens of a message that must not be distorted."

Luis Gomez, a government legislator, confirmed that the draft law—which eliminates the imprisonment penalty for those accused of libel and slander, but establishes heavy fines ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for those who violate the new law—has met with the total rejection of the journalists.

**Newspaper Derides Civic Crusade 'Flop'**  
*PA231658 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish  
23 Oct 87 p 6*

[Editorial: " 'Zero Hour' Was Just That: A Big Zero"]

[Text] The big plans, the brilliant strategy, and the precise blueprints the Civic Crusade had prepared as a product of many months of efforts at the cost of several million dollars yesterday had the same results as wet gunpowder.

Not even that, because a wet bullet is always a threat when it is hit by a firing pin, while the crusaders got nowhere with the announced climax of their efforts. They promised a large-caliber artillery shot but produced not even a spark.

There were reasons for this flop, a notorious flop. We explained these reasons in yesterday's editorial.

We said our people, making use of unwritten wisdom acquired through experience, would not let themselves be pushed by opportunists who order others to face danger while they remain under the protection of a distant and comfortable rearguard. He who does not directly set fire to a fuel will not start a bonfire. When the idea is to set on fire the spirit of all—or most of—the people, then the person attempting to do it must have the brave determination that just causes provide: Then the people's spirit would be set ablaze.

The cheap Crusade leaders have neither a just cause nor the determination. They cannot reach the essential way of thinking of the majority of the people. There are not sufficiently important reasons for the people to conclude that they must risk everything and gamble their happiness, their peace, and even their lives on one roll of the dice to secure public power for those who lost it and who now want it back and want others to recover it for them.

Those cheap leaders do not have the political, moral, and personal authority that separates true leaders from those who only appear to be leaders. This is why the phony leaders of an opposition disguised as a civic crusade, especially those of the anti-Christian democracy, are now seeing how the people have turned into failure a moment from which these phony leaders expected victory, a moment that became a real zero for them.

As a result of such a huge setback, the picture that had been painted for the green [Christian Democratic Party color] chieftain of the Christian Democratic Party, the local Dracula, has changed completely. The local Dracula had already imagined himself sitting in the Presidential Palace as the boss of a junta born out of a treacherous plan to finish off the already impotent leadership of the Chief of Arcoiris [nickname for former Panamanian President Arnulfo Arias]. On returning (if he dares return) from his cowardly absence, he will have to listen to jeers from his associates and from observers throughout the continent.

**Editorial Urges Rapprochement With U.S.**  
*PA270106 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA*  
*in Spanish 26 Oct 87 p A-4*

[Editorial: "The Need To Improve Certain Diplomatic Relations"]

[Text] Several days ago, *La Estrella de Panama* published statements by Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias and U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis in which they both agreed on the need to seek the best methods to improve diplomatic relations between the Panamanian and U.S. Governments. On various occasions both officials have said diplomatic relations between the two governments have reached the lowest level ever. As we know, the freezing of those relations has resulted from very bitter differences over the political crisis affecting our country for over 4 months.

Those differences have deepened tremendously due to an overflow of political passions on both the U.S. and Panamanian sides. The severe tit for tat attacks have created grave resentments that have strained our relations. Now, in view of the developments, both the Panamanian foreign minister and the U.S. ambassador seem to have realized the negative effects of those actions. An objective analysis of the situation has made them realize the need for making the necessary efforts to encourage a rapprochement between the two governments.

Days before the two high-level officials' statements one of our editorials called for more wisdom, good sense, and maturity in facing the events taking place. We issued a call to the parties involved asking them not to let themselves be dragged by political passions and to stop the harsh exchange of attacks. We issued that call appealing to the old and traditional friendship between the two countries. We appealed to our people's democratic ideals and at the same time warned of the tremendous damage being caused to our two countries' common interests. For that reason we join the conciliatory remarks made by the two diplomatic leaders, who have deemed it necessary to put things where they belong and possibly start moving on the path of dialogue and understanding.

No matter how we look at things, we have many social and economic interests closely linking us to the United States. However, that does not mean we must negotiate our dignity and our sovereign position on the Panama Canal problems. However, within the framework of that steadfast concept, it is necessary that we Panamanians, particularly our government leaders, act with greater prudence and, basically, with greater maturity in facing the political problems that have emerged with the U.S. Government. It also is necessary for U.S. Government leaders to change their arrogant, gendarme-like [gendarmista], and interventionist position. Only in that way will each side contribute to creating a rapprochement that will lead to an ultimate understanding between two governments that have historically identified with each other and have maintained a great friendship.

**Argentina**

**Possible Successor to Alfonsin Viewed**

*PY261956 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Oct 87 p 7*

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The governor-elect of Cordoba, Eduardo Angeloz, is "the natural candidate of the party" for the 1989 presidential elections according to Radical Party leader Senator Edison Otero.

Angeloz who is increasingly being suggested as the man to follow Raul Alfonsin at the helm of the Radical Party, will be travelling to the U.S. at the end of the month where he will be holding a number of high-profile meetings with both politicians and institutions.

He will be meeting United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and later speaking at a meeting of the influential Council of America. Angeloz is also expected to hold top level meetings with U.S. banking institutions such as Citicorp and Chase Manhattan banks and is expected to be granting a number of press conferences and interviews to the press.

This trip will be followed by a number of other overseas trips including Western Europe and the Soviet Union, the latter on an invitation from Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Since the September 6 elections defeat by the Peronist opposition the Radical Party has been actively promoting the governor-elect of Cordoba as the successor as leader of the Radical Party and over recent weeks senior party members have been putting forward Angeloz's name.

Over the weekend the governor-elect of Rio Negro Osvaldo Alvarez Guerrero, speaking in Cipolletti, said that "Angeloz has turned himself into a good natural candidate for the presidency of the country" adding that the newly-elected governor of Cordoba "has all the qualities, from the point of view of his participation in the Radical Party, his election victory and the efficient way he carried them out," adding for good measure that the next candidate for vice-president should come "from Patagonia."

In La Falda yesterday, Angeloz assured members of the press that he had no contact or talks with President Raul Alfonsin about his candidacy as president for the 1989 elections. "I haven't had any contact," he said.

"And I'm not worried about these new attitudes which some friends want to express."

**EC's Cheysson Arrives; To Meet With Alfonsin**

*PY272052 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1953 GMT 27 Oct 87*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Oct (TELAM)—Claude Cheysson, the EC's representative to Latin America, arrived in our country at 1525, from Uruguay, where he participated in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Group of Eight.

Cheysson arrived at the metropolitan airport—commercial sector—on a regular Aerolineas Argentinas flight and will meet with President Raul Alfonsin at 1830 in the Olivos residence.

At 2000, the visitor will open the Parks of Europe Fair at the CAYC [not further identified—fbis], 452 Viamonte Street of this capital. Finally, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo will hold a dinner for Cheysson at the former's private residence.

**Further Report on SFRY President's Visit**

**Mojsov News Conference**

*PY271815 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1630 GMT 27 Oct 87*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Oct (TELAM)—SFRY President Lazar Mojsov today stressed the importance of the start of bilateral economic cooperation programs between Argentina and Yugoslavia. He said creditor countries should lower interest rates on the foreign debt and praised the activities of nonaligned countries in this regard.

Moreover, SFRY Foreign Minister Rajj Dazderjeravich said the meeting that eight Latin American presidents of the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group are scheduled to hold in Acapulco, Mexico, in November will have great international impact.

The two officials made this statement during a news conference they held today at the Hotel Plaza in Buenos Aires as a corollary to their visit to Argentina. As part of their Latin American tour, Mojsov and Dazderjeravich will also visit Mexico and Cuba, and according to what was stated today in the news conference, they will make a technical stop tonight in Lima, where they will meet with President Alan Garcia Perez.

Mojsov also denied the signing of bilateral agreements through which Argentina will export a nuclear plant to the SFRY, and he announced that his country will not carry out any new nuclear construction until the year 2000 to avoid submerging itself in a new cycle of indebtedness, and to await new technological developments.

Mojsov said Latin American countries that face serious foreign commitments have decreased their imports from developed countries. He said that since the beginning of

the foreign debt crisis, in the 1980's, Latin American countries have imported from the United States merchandise worth less than \$100 billion.

He explained that someone [words indistinct] jobs because of the decrease in exports and stated that it is also in the interest of highly developed countries to decrease the debt burden so they can start a new development cycle.

He added: We would like to import more merchandise, more equipment from developed countries, but we do not want to contract new debts or to use part of our national resources to pay the foreign debt; but rather to achieve more development because if we achieve more development we will be able to import more.

Mojsov said that within the so-called "South-South Cooperation" program among developing countries new production forces may be developed without contracting new debts. He added that the SFRY delegation has proposed some cooperation agreements and projects in this regard.

He said this is a modest start in the economic cooperation field but we believe something more can be done.

SFRY Foreign Minister Dazderjeravik reasserted his country's support for the efforts of the Contadora Group, which strives for Latin American countries to resolve their problems by themselves.

Yugoslavia also supports the "Esquipulas" agreement signed by five Latin American presidents.

#### Alfonsin Hosts Dinner

PY271832 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0250 GMT  
27 Oct 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Oct (TELAM)—Argentina and SFRY Presidents Raul Alfonsin and Lazar Mojsov tonight agreed that it is necessary to find a fair solution through diplomatic channels to the Malvinas issue and to organize a new international economic order to stop the transference of money from the southern hemisphere countries to those in the northern hemisphere.

Alfonsin and Mojsov both delivered speeches during the dinner which Alfonsin hosted for Mojsov at the San Martin Palace. Executive Branch ministers, secretaries of state, members of the diplomatic corps, military chiefs, and special guests attended the dinner.

Alfonsin first referred to the progress attained in the bilateral relations between the two countries. He then recalled that there are about 200,000 Argentines of Yugoslav descent who have contributed to the development of the Patagonia and northeastern regions.

Alfonsin spoke of Yugoslavia's position as a Third World country that wishes to sponsor an East-West dialogue in favor of peaceful coexistence and against the use of force to solve international conflicts.

In this respect Alfonsin said that Argentina and Yugoslavia, as members of the Nonaligned Movement, have cooperated in several issues, including trying to find a solution to the Central American conflict, the Iran-Iraq war, and in other projects where they sought the respect for the principles of law, justice, and equality.

Alfonsin said that Argentina is a Western, nonaligned, developing country, independent of any strategic alliance. He said that Argentina wishes to maintain its authentic and responsible position, independent of the great world powers and extremism.

He also mentioned the problems affecting the non-aligned countries. He spoke of the progressive devaluation of the prices of their products as a result of the unfair international economic order.

Alfonsin said that the foreign debt is a serious problem because the social and political future of the country depends on a solution to the debt. He thus proposed making a political evaluation of the commitments that will favor development and the unpostponable reorganization of the world economy.

He also mentioned the different fields of bilateral cooperation—nuclear energy, technology, scientific investigation, among others—adding that, within a framework of firmness, enthusiasm, mutual respect—without interfering in the domestic affairs of each other—and by preserving our respective ways, customs, and ideologies, we have found that Yugoslavia wishes to improve, to work, to progress, and to coexist.

In conclusion, he expressed the Argentine Government and people's acknowledgement of the Yugoslav support for our country in its relentless diplomatic struggle for the cause of the Malvinas, South Sandwich, South Georgia Islands and the adjacent sea. Yugoslavia, he said, has always given Argentina its full support.

The Yugoslav president pointed out the affinities between his country with Argentina. He said that only from an independent and nonaligned position can we identify our national interests, express our will for peace and fair cooperation, as well as for free development and the full freedom of the whole world.

In another part of his speech, Mojsov referred to the foreign debt burden and said that more favorable conditions for the payment of the debt, and a solution that will not affect development, will help the debtors and creditors overcome the crisis.

He said that, objectively, the payment of the debt under the current circumstances is impossible, even considering the goodwill and efforts of the debtor countries.

He said that it is essential to come to terms and to consider the interests shared by the north and south if we want to prevent the debt issue—as well as the political issue—from endangering world peace, development, and stability.

The Yugoslav president said that his country shares with Argentina its interest in the struggle for freedom, independence, and development, as well as in its opposition to the economic and political monopoly and dominance. He then reiterated his support for the Argentine effort, being conducted within these principles, in seeking a fair solution for the Malvinas Islands conflict.

#### **Agreements, Departure**

*PY280143 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS  
in Spanish 1850 GMT 27 Oct 87*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Oct (NA)—The Argentine and Yugoslav presidents today signed bilateral cooperation agreements and lunched together. During the luncheon the two presidents talked about items of mutual interest. The luncheon marked the end of the 48-hour visit of President Lazar Mojsov to Argentina.

Alfonsin and Lazar Mojsov, who ended his visit to the country at 1600, held their second round of talks at the Olivos Residence at noon today and signed two new bilateral agreements.

Mojsov arrived at the Olivos Residence at 1230 and immediately joined Alfonsin to preside over the ceremony in which their respective foreign ministers signed the agreements.

First, the two countries signed a cultural cooperation agreement stating that both parties “will do all within their power to strengthen the cooperation, cultural, scientific, and educational exchange.”

The two foreign ministers also signed a “veterinarian and sanitary” agreement establishing common policies “of certain and determined problems that affect the primary production of the two countries.” [sentence as received]

Yesterday, the two countries signed another bilateral cooperation agreement regarding visas for Argentine and Yugoslav citizens.

After the signing of the agreements, the two presidents lunched together, and again reviewed bilateral relations, regional and international issues.

Alfonsin was accompanied by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, [words indistinct].

This afternoon, the Yugoslav president ended his 48-hour official visit to the country and at 1600 departed from the military sector of the Metropolitan Airport for Peru, the next leg of his Latin American tour.

Alfonsin and high-ranking members of his government bade Mojsov farewell with the appropriate honors and ceremonies.

### **Bolivia**

**Trade Talks With USSR Open in Santa Cruz**  
*PY271325 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish  
1130 GMT 27 Oct 87*

[Text] At the opening of the Bolivian-Soviet talks on trade yesterday at the Los Tajibos Hotel in Santa Cruz, Alfredo Almeida, Bolivian Foreign Ministry under secretary, said Bolivia is engaged in the reactivation of its economy and thus needs the support of friendly countries such as the USSR, which is now living under the slogan Peace and Tranquillity for the Country, which was proposed by its leader, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Today, the five subcommissions of the Bolivian-Soviet Mixed Commission will discuss several matters, particularly those related to the export of nontraditional products, agriculture, and cattle raising.

The leader of the Soviet delegation said that following the talks in Santa Cruz, the Bolivian-Soviet Commission will probably sign an agreement for cooperation in the fields of agriculture and cattle raising.

### **Brazil**

**Army Minister Vows To Maintain Stability**  
*PY280223 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese  
2100 GMT 27 Oct 87*

[Text] Army Minister General Leonidas Pires Goncalves today stated at Planalto Palace that the Armed Forces are determined to maintain the stability needed to implement this democratic transition. Commenting on the recent military events, Gen Pires said:

[Begin recording] The Armed Forces, especially the Army, are determined to maintain the stability required for this political transition period. A political transition like the one we are undertaking requires a great degree of stability.

A confrontation of ideas, the required changes, and agreements and disagreements as well will obviously be instrumental in creating favorable conditions. Although this is a political matter, we in the Armed Forces believe we must guarantee stability so that the transition can be implemented. [end recording]

**Government Prepares Basic Salary Increase**  
*PY272144 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television  
in Portuguese 1500 GMT 27 Oct 87*

[Text] President Sarney on 29 October will sign the decree establishing a new basic salary value. The basic salary will be increased above the inflation of this month, which is currently running at 9 percent. The new basic salary will be effective as of 1 November.

Meanwhile, the salary readjustment for the federal employees will be 108 percent. This is the same percentage granted to the military officers. However, there is a difference: the percentage will vary according to the salaries of the civil servants.

During an interview on the television program "Good Morning, Brazil" early this morning, Administration Minister Aluisio Alves explained that those who are earning less will get a higher salary increase, while those who earn more will get a smaller salary increase.

The readjustment will be published tomorrow because the regulation for each worker's category is still being studied by the administration secretariat.

**Finance Minister Rules Out Price Freeze**  
*PY280026 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese  
2100 GMT 27 Oct 87*

[Text] Finance Minister Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira has ruled out the possibility of another price freeze, Finance Ministry spokesman Francisco Bakker said.

According to Bakker, the report on a new price freeze carried today by the press stems from a totally distorted interpretation of a meeting held by Minister Bresser with businessmen in Sao Paulo.

**Chile**

**Economy Minister on Possible U.S. Penalties**  
*PY280222 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish  
2200 GMT 27 Oct 87*

[Excerpt] Economy Minister Manuel Concha has described the implementation of penalties against Chile, which could be approved in the U.S. Congress, as unacceptable and unfair.

The economy minister said these types of penalties are, in truth, political, a fact that has also been stated by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

[Begin Concha recording] At this time I must tell you that somehow these proposals are based on politics, a fact that has also been stated by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

In our opinion, this is unacceptable and we have said so on several occasions.

In commercial and economic relations between the nations, mere politics—which would affect economic and commercial (?relations)—should not be valid because they could be a detriment to their productive activities.

It would be unfair, to say the least, to implement penalties against our country for reasons that have nothing to do with the country's economic and commercial (?activities) because our country has made adjustments. Chile has sacrificed and somehow it has adopted sound economic policies, demonstrating a sound performance over the past few years. [end recording] [passage omitted]

**Colombia**

**UP Postpones Meeting With Military Leaders**  
*PA271648 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2150 GMT  
26 Oct 87*

[Excerpts] Bogota, 26 Oct (DPA)—The Colombian leftist movement Patriotic Union (UP) has decided to postpone its meeting with high-ranking military leaders until President Virgilio Barco Vargas answers a message this political group sent him last week. The meeting had been scheduled for tomorrow.

The decision was made during a UP plenum, which met in Bogota to analyze the present situation, especially after the assassination of the movement's leader, Jaime Pardo Leal.

According to the UP, before establishing contacts with the military a "democratic agreement" must be sought with the participation of the various sectors in Colombia "to save the country from terror." Therefore, the leftist spokesmen said they must first obtain the government's reply to a number of requests the movement made in its letter. [passage omitted]

The UP plenum confirmed 33-year-old legislator Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa as UP president, a position he had been holding temporarily following Pardo Leal's assassination.

In the meeting the UP also stressed that the recent creation of the Simon Bolivar Coordinating Board, made up of all the country's large guerrilla groups, is a positive event because it permits the presence of a single spokesman in the process.

The regional movement Middle Magdalena Broad Front [Frente Amplio del Magdalena Medio, FAMM], founded by assassinated guerrilla Ricardo Lara Parada, veteran Socialist leader Diego Montana Cuellar, and Jorge Regueros Peralta of the Firmes movement, took advantage of the plenum to officially announce its membership in the UP.

The UP was founded at the end of 1985 by the pro-Soviet Communist Party of Colombia (PCC), independent figures, and union and mass organizations. It is trying to be a channel for the return to civilian political life by the guerrillas, especially the FARC.

**Church Calls for Government-Rebel Dialogue**

PA271904 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish  
20 Oct 87 p 12-C

[Communique issued by the Catholic Church; date and place not given]

[Text] In view of the regrettable and repeated events already known to the public, the Permanent Committee considers it convenient to state the following:

1. In July the episcopal plenary assembly issued a pastoral message on the defense of life that reflected, according to the universal consensus of Colombians, the country's serious situation. This has been demonstrated by the events that followed, one of which was the despicable murder of Dr Jaime Pardo Leal. Despite evident signs of economic progress in the country, the proliferation of groups and paid assassins who carry out attempts on people's lives, the murders on an uncontrollable scale, the terrorist acts against life, and the growing poverty of the unprotected classes continue to be evidence of a serious situation.

2. The painful reality that afflicts the fatherland indicates that a national meeting should be held soon between the legitimate officials and responsible people and organizations to determine the roads to the complete salvation of Colombia.

3. As we stated in our July pastoral message, we believe it is necessary to reaffirm that the Colombian bishops are willing today and always to take as our own the words of the Holy Father: "Be servants to your country and your people, opening paths to more justice and social progress for all. Do not stop in your defense of the rights of the weak, in promoting public morality, in honorable mediation for the reconciliation of all the children of this noble and cordial, hospitable and peace-loving nation." Thus, and as public opinion is aware, we have started to establish multiple contacts with several organizations responsible for life within the country. All of them agree that we should continue to stimulate a climate favorable to dialogue and to defending life, and that violence cease, because it is anti-Christian and anti-evangelical.

4. In addition, several rebel groups have repeatedly addressed themselves to the bishops asking that the church mediate between the government and those groups. Other associations have explicitly joined in this petition.

As the word indicates, we understand mediation to be an act of good will that attempts to join distant points. As a result, through dialogue, agreements can be reached on

subjects that interest both parties. This means the mediator and the interested parties are the principal actors in trying to achieve clear positions for a cordial understanding.

In this case, the bishops understand that "an honorable mediation," the one our Holy Father indicated, requires the acceptance and participation of the country's legitimate officials as well as of the guerrilla chiefs who have the capacity to commit their groups, always having the well-being of the country in mind.

5. The bishops are aware that we are dealing here with an objective that is of unparalleled interest for the country's well-being and that also corresponds to the fervent desires of the Colombian people. Because of this we invite all the Catholic people to pray for the defense of life and for peace in Colombia, and to ask, in the International Marian Year, to Mary, queen of peace, that these valued gifts become a reality among us.

(Signed) Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, Archbishop of Medellin, President of Episcopal Conference; Mario Revollo Bravo, Archbishop of Bogota; Pedro Rubiano Saenz, Archbishop of Cali and Vice President of Episcopal Conference; Augusto Trujillo Arango, Archbishop of Tunja; Jose Joaquin Florez Hernandez, Archbishop of Ibague; Hector Rueda Hernandez, Archbishop of Bucaramanga; Jose de Jesus Pimiento, Archbishop of Manizales; Samuel S. Buitrago Trujillo, Archbishop of Popayan; Carlos Jose Ruiseco Vieira, Archbishop of Cartagena; Rafael Sarmiento Peralta, Archbishop of Nueva Pamplona; Felix Maria Torres Parra, Archbishop of Barranquilla; Arcadio Bernal Supelano, Apostolic Vicar of Sibundoy

**Ecuador**

**FUT Leader Calls for Nationwide Strike**

PA231623 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT  
22 Oct 87

[Text] Sole Workers Front [FUT] President Edgar Ponce has reiterated the appeal to the country's working class for participation in a nationwide strike on 28 October. Ponce released a joint communique of the FUT, the People's Front, the National Workers Confederation, and the National Confederation of Ecuadorian Indians. The communique rejects government policies and demands respect for the Constitution, the removal of Government Minister Luis Robles Plaza, a wage increase, and the expulsion of U.S. troops. It also calls for nonpayment of the foreign debt, a solution to labor conflicts, and a price freeze on staple good, among other things.

**Government Declares State of Emergency**

PA272349 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT  
27 Oct 87

[Text] Before beginning our 1800 newscast, we will give you the news report that was announced at this hour throughout the country. The national government, the

president of the Republic, decreed, based on Article 68, letter N, of the Constitution, a state of national emergency, assumed the authority in the event of an imminent foreign aggression, international war, grave commotion, or domestic catastrophe, and notified the Congress, which was in session, and the Constitutional Tribunal of Guarantees of the provisions of Article 68, N, of the Constitution.

In other words, there will be a state of emergency in the country as of tomorrow... [corrects himself] as of this evening at midnight. There is prior censorship in those communications media that disrupt order, the decree declaring the state of emergency reads. All Ecuadoran territory is declared security territory, and the Armed Forces assume control of public order. This is done to forestall anything that might happen during tomorrow's national strike. The president of the Republic notified the Constitutional Guarantees Tribunal of the decree declaring the state of emergency. This is an important announcement that we are broadcasting to the country.

#### **Closes Schools**

PA272226 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1845 GMT  
27 Oct 87

[Text] Quito, 27 Oct (EFE)—The Ecuadoran Government has suspended classes throughout the country today and tomorrow because of the general workers' strike called for tomorrow.

The strike has been convoked by the Sole Workers Front (FUT), which groups the main labor workers, and peasants organizations in the country to demand, among other things, the separation from his post of Police (Interior) Minister Luis Robles Plaza [title as received].

Regarding the suspension of classes, the government justified the measure by recalling the violence unleashed during the last general strike—which took place on 25 March and resulted in several injuries and property damage—and stressing the need to guarantee the students' safety.

Regarding the strike, Labor Minister Guillermo Chang—whose removal has also been demanded by the strike promoters—said the strike “is a political and not a labor movement; therefore, it is illegal. It is also inconvenient, because of the country's current economic crisis.”

President Leon Febres-Cordero expressed himself in similar terms a few days ago. He stressed that the government will adopt the necessary measures to maintain social peace in the country during the strike.

The government also has launched a daily campaign on national radio and television networks warning the public about possible violence during the strike.

Tomorrow's strike is the sixth general strike convoked by the Ecuadoran unions since the current government assumed power in August 1984. Of the six strikes, the last one received the most support and was characterized by more violence.

#### **Clarifies Censorship Regulations**

PA280344 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish  
0225 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Quito, 27 Oct (REUTER)—National Secretary of Public Information Marco Lara has stated that the censorship of the communications media decreed tonight by the government will apply exclusively to privately owned radio stations.

Lara, who was interviewed by this news agency, said that newspapers, television stations, and international news agencies will not be required to present their material beforehand.

Lara said, “We hope there will be an attitude of self-censorship and self-control, and that news will be reported without fanning the flames and everything will be placed in its right context.”

He explained that radio stations will not be allowed to broadcast information and will be required to join a national network with the government radio station to broadcast government statements.

Lara said, “Labor Minister Guillermo Chang will report on the latest developments at 1100 and 1700 over the national radio network, and I will be available to newsmen at all times.”

President Febres-Cordero decreed censorship of radio stations within the framework of the declaration of the state of emergency because of a 24-hour strike called for tomorrow by the leftist trade unions.

Lara confirmed that troops have been mobilized throughout the country, including armored troops.

The official said that “this measure has been taken so they (the military) will help maintain order in the country.”

Presidency Minister Patricio Quevedo revealed to this news agency that the troops will protect roads, public services, and petroleum installations; and that the police will maintain order in the cities.

Both officials stated that the exceptional measures taken by the government will be no obstacle to the political activities of the various parties that will participate in the January 31 general elections.

In 96 days Ecuadoreans will go to the polls for the third time since the 1979 democratic restoration to elect Febres-Cordero's successor, renew the 71-member Congress, and appoint local authorities.

## Peru

### Nationalization Ruling Conflict Continues

PA232149 Lima Panamericana Television Network  
in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] The conflict between the government and the bankers continues to grow. On one side, the government-appointed administration committees continue to work at the banks that were seized and, on the other, the bankers continue to demand that the court ruling ordering the withdrawal of the government-appointed administrators be complied with.

Meanwhile, at Credit Bank, the administration committee dismissed General Manager Javier Arrivas. The directors of Wiese Bank returned to their offices; Guillermo Wiese and his executives returned to their bank offices in compliance with a ruling issued by Lima's 14th Civil Court.

Francisco Pardo Mesones, president of the Banker's Association and owner of Mercantile Bank, reiterated his demand that the government must respect the law. Yesterday, Pardo Mesones said that the expropriation process begun by the government is not the end of the matter; the battle has just started, he said.

Economy Minister Gustavo Saberbein announced that the government has sent to the courts the judicial certificate of deposit that includes the fair price for the banks that were seized; Credit Bank was appraised at 1.734 billion inties, and the Wiese Bank at 609 million inties.

### Judge Overturns Ruling

PA242210 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish  
0100 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Communique issued by the Communications Office of the Ministry of Justice in Lima on 23 October]

[Text] Dr Carlos Paredes, who is in charge of Lima's 24th Civil Court, today overturned a ruling by Judge Jaime Moran invalidating the actions of the administrative committees of the Credit Bank, Wiese Bank, and Credit Finance Bank. Those committees were established in accordance with Law 24-7-23.

In his resolution, Judge Paredes also reaffirmed that only the Tribunal of Constitutional Guarantees can declare a law unconstitutional and stop its implementation.

In this way, the Judicial Branch clearly affirms that the administrative committees set up at banks, financial companies, and insurance companies have been established in strict compliance with Law 24-7-23.

[Dated] Lima, 23 October 1987

[Signed] Communications Office

### Shining Path Raises Police Death Toll to 293

PA270200 Paris AFP in Spanish 1721 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Text] Lima, 25 Oct (AFP)—Two Peruvian policemen were killed this morning in the central Andean city of Huancayo in a new terrorist offensive that claimed the life of another policeman in Ayacucho and left three persons wounded as the result of five explosions in Lima and in Trujillo.

The last three deaths increased to 293 the total number of policemen killed in Peru by the Maoist Shining Path guerrillas since 1980, according to Interior Ministry statistics.

To counter the psychological effect of the subversive blows, the Police Antiterrorist Brigade confirmed today that a training camp and arms factory of the MRTA (Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement) was raided in Lima.

In the operation, depicted as a severe blow to the Tupac Amaru rebels, the authorities recovered the first flag raised by liberator Jose de San Martin in 1821 during the struggle for the emancipation of Peru against Spanish domination.

The historic relic had been stolen by the Tupac Amaru rebels on 27 June 1985, from a museum in the northern district of Huaura, 135 km from Lima, where San Martin declared his most important independence proclamation for Peru.

Regarding the killing of policemen, the authorities reported that this morning, a Shining Path annihilation commando shot to death Carlos Espiritu and Pedro Marcalaya, civil guardsmen who were guarding the ruling Aprista Party headquarters in Huancayo, 290 km to the east.

Rodolfo Aviles of the Republican Guard was killed on 24 October near Ayacucho Prison, some 500 km to the southeast, by another Shining Path group that fled immediately.

In addition to the 293 policemen killed during the guerrilla struggle over a period of 7 and 1/2 years, official figures indicate that 50 members of the Armed Forces and 79 civilian authorities—including mayors, judges, and governors—have been killed by the rebels. The attacks in Lima were the work of the MRTA, which attacked with explosives a supply market and the headquarters of the Aprista Party in the port district of La Perla.

The first attack left three seriously wounded, including a 10-year-old boy who was hospitalized, according to the authorities.

In Trujillo, some 500 km to the north, the Tupac Amaru rebels bombed the headquarters of the government party, the Peruvian-North American Cultural Institute, and an automobile distributors plant, causing property damage.

### Uruguay

**Finance Minister Travels to Washington**  
*PY270110 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish*  
0000 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] According to official reports from government sources, Economy and Finance Minister Ricardo Zerbino has traveled to Washington. Zerbino will meet with IDB authorities to discuss the situation with regard to five different projects, most of them in the agricultural sector, that were submitted to the IDB for consideration this year.

Zerbino will try to overcome difficulties in order to facilitate the implementation of at least four of the projects before the end of the year.

According to official sources, Minister Zerbino will return on 30 October.

**Policeman Wounded at Ecuadoran Envoy's House**  
*PY262043 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1756 GMT 26 Oct 87*

[Text] Montevideo, 26 Oct (EFE)—A policeman sustained a bullet wound during an incident at the door of the house of Ecuadoran Ambassador to Uruguay Fernando Rivadeneira.

The incident occurred early today when a car bearing no license plates stopped in front of the house after passing several times in front of it to observe it.

The policeman who usually guards the house went to the car, and when he asked the three persons inside for their papers he was shot in the arm, but managed to repel the attack. Police sources said the attackers escaped.

Ecuadoran Embassy spokesmen who were consulted by EFE said they were not aware of the incident and said the ambassador is discharging his duties as usual.

Rivadeneira, a lawyer, was accredited as ambassador in August, after holding diplomatic posts in the USSR, Poland, Italy, and Argentina.

### Suriname

**Referendum Slated on Emergency Area Elections**  
*FL261801 Paramaribo International Service in English*  
1730 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] A referendum is to be held on the question whether or not general elections should be conducted in the three areas under the state of emergency. This solution has resulted from lengthy meetings of government leader Desi Bouterse with the Top Deliberating Council on this controversy. There is, however, still another difference of opinion whether the referendum should be held for the entire population or for only the people in those districts under the state of emergency. The Top Deliberating Council is of the view that the entire population should express their opinion on this question, while the government leader is opposed to this, saying that only the people in the three districts must decide this question.

Today at 12 noon at the latest, the definite decision will be taken. Up to press time no decision has been reached. Both parties in the meantime have made it clear that the elections will take place as planned on November 25th.

**Willy Soemita Pardoned, To Run for Office**  
*FL261855 Paramaribo International Service in English*  
1730 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] KTPI [Indonesian Peasants' Party] leader Willy Soemita has been pardoned of a conviction so he could be a candidate for his party for the general election next month. In 1981, the political leader had been imprisoned for 8 months by a special tribunal on corruption charges while being the minister of agriculture. He was also [words indistinct] for 50 years. In the interest of the public, the president of the Republic, Fred Ramdat-Misier, has pardoned Soemita who is now third on the list of candidates of the Front for Democracy and Development.

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